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MARVEL® COMICS GROUP



THE HANDS OF SHANG-CHI.

MASTER OF KUNG FU



FIGHT
TO THE
FINISH!



ZECK/DAY

"Call me Shang-Chi, as my *father* did, when he raised me in the vacuum of his Honan, China retreat. I learned many things from my father: that my name means 'The Rising and Advancing of a Spirit,' and that my body could be forged into a living weapon through the discipline of kung fu. Since then, I have learned that my father is *Dr. Fu Manchu*, the most insidiously evil man on Earth... and that to *honor* him would bring nothing but *dishonor* to the spirit of my *name*."

Stan Lee
PRESENTS:

MASTER OF KUNG FU!

Featuring supporting characters created by SAX ROHMER

"MY JOURNEY NEARS ITS END HERE IN LONDON, AS OTHERS ALL AROUND MOVE ONWARD, EACH TOWARD A GOAL OFFERING BUT PRIVATE MEANING... YET ALL SHARING, UNTIL THEIR INDIVIDUAL GOALS ARE ATTAINED, A COMMON GOAL OF THE JOURNEY ITSELF."

THE JOURNEY AS GOAL

"THE TRIP, THE TREK, THE JOURNEY WAS ONCE EQUALLY AS IMPORTANT AS THE DESTINATION -- A NECESSARY PASSAGE OF WONDERS AND DANGERS AS TARR WOULD SAY, 'GETTING THERE IS HALF THE FUN'."

"BUT MOVEMENT FOR MAN HAS BECOME TOO SWIFT, PEAKING WITH THE PLANE, AND AIR TRAVEL HAS MADE JOURNEYS TOO EASY, THUS CHEAPENING THE GOAL, DEMYSTIFYING THE DESTINATION."

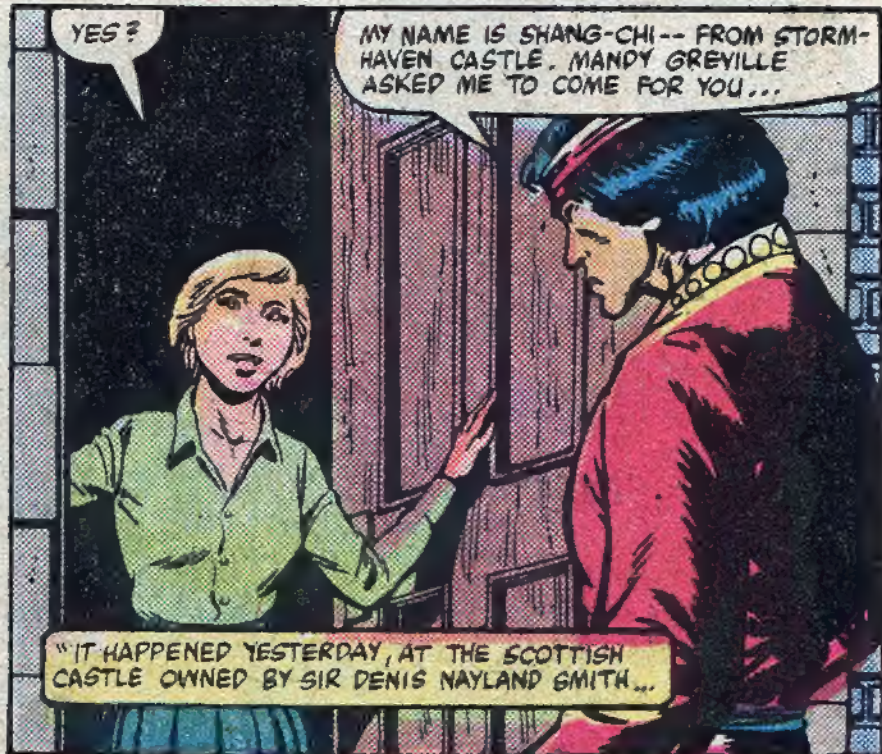
"STILL, I WONDER... DOES THIS MEAN THAT THE MORE ARDUOUS THE JOURNEY, THE MORE MEANINGFUL THE ATTAINED GOAL AT JOURNEY'S END...? I THINK YES... AND IT IS TIME TO MOVE ON..."

DOUG MOENCH * MIKE ZECK / GENE DAY * JIM NOVAK * BOB SHAREN * JIM SALICRUP * JIM SHOOTER
TOUR GUIDES * LETTERER * COLORIST * EDITOR * EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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"HOW MANY PEOPLE, I WONDER -- HOW MANY EVENTS AND EXPERIENCES -- HAVE BEEN BYPASSED BETWEEN THERE AND HERE? EVEN THE ANSWER HAS BEEN BYPASSED, FOR I HAVE ARRIVED AT MY DESTINATION..."



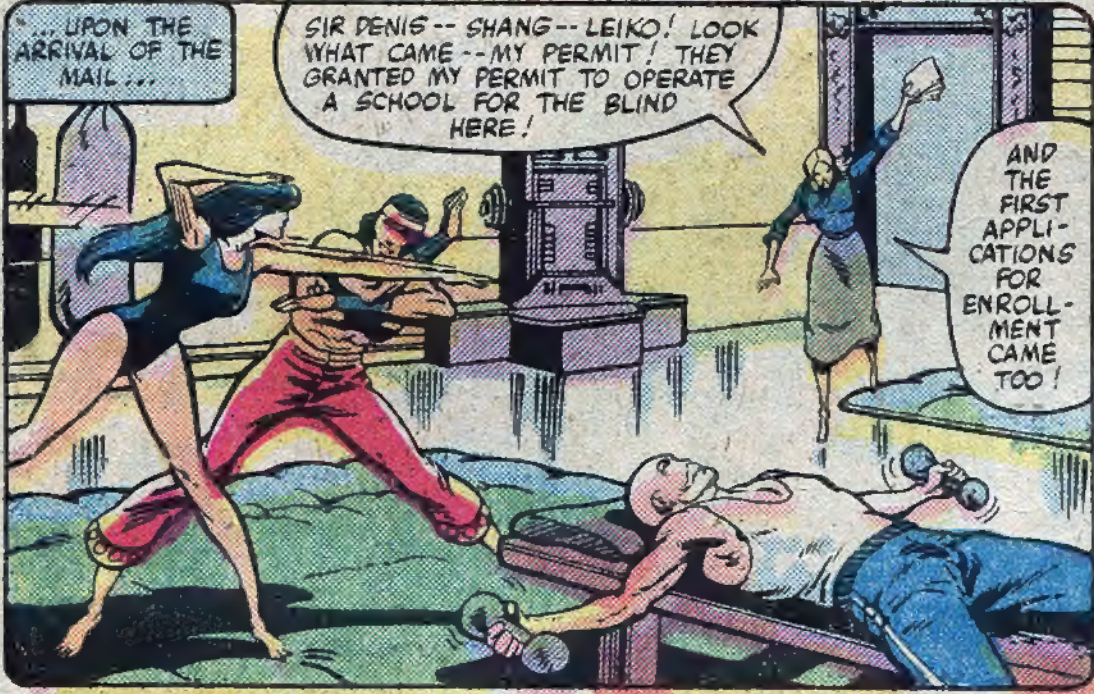
YES?

MY NAME IS SHANG-CHI -- FROM STORM-HAVEN CASTLE. MANDY GREYVILLE ASKED ME TO COME FOR YOU...

"IT HAPPENED YESTERDAY, AT THE SCOTTISH CASTLE OWNED BY SIR DENIS NAYLAND SMITH..."

...UPON THE ARRIVAL OF THE MAIL...

SIR DENIS -- SHANG -- LEIKO! LOOK WHAT CAME -- MY PERMIT! THEY GRANTED MY PERMIT TO OPERATE A SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND HERE!



AND THE FIRST APPLICATIONS FOR ENROLLMENT CAME TOO!

THAT'S WONDERFUL, MANDY. I'M SURE YOUR SCHOOL WILL BE A TREMENDOUS SUCCESS. SPEAKING OF WHICH, YOUR SISTER MELISSA HAS ALREADY BEGUN LAYING THE, AH, "FOUNDATIONS"...



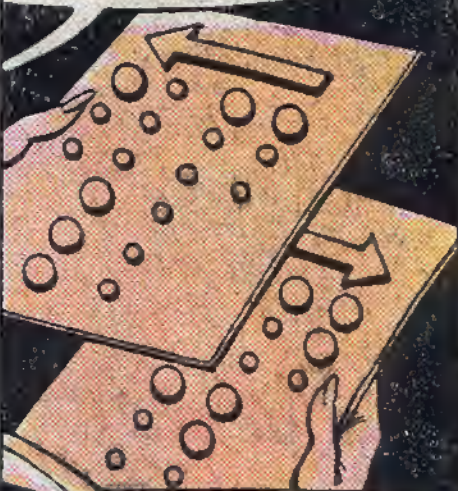
"INGENIOUS IDEA, THAT."
WHAT'S UP, MELISSA-DARLIN'? OR SHOULD I SAY *DOWN*?



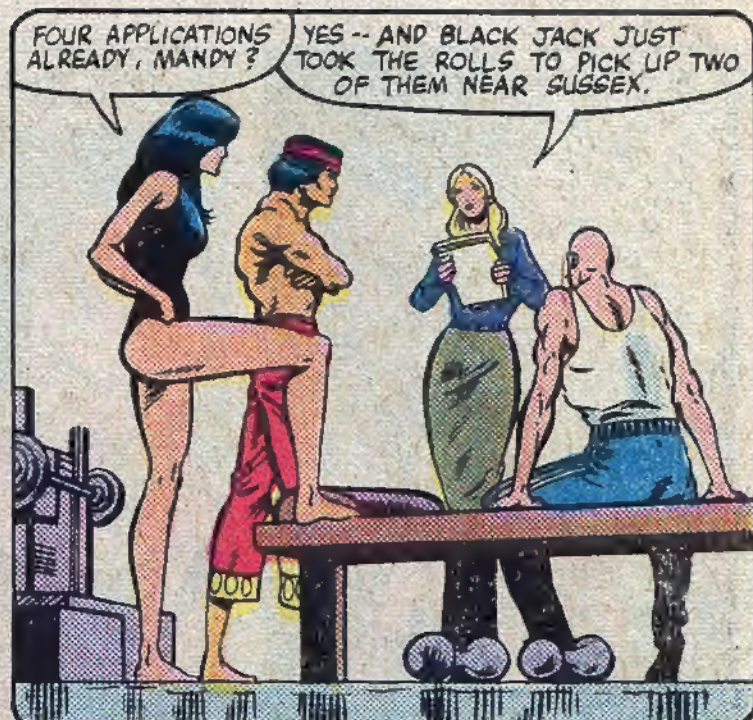
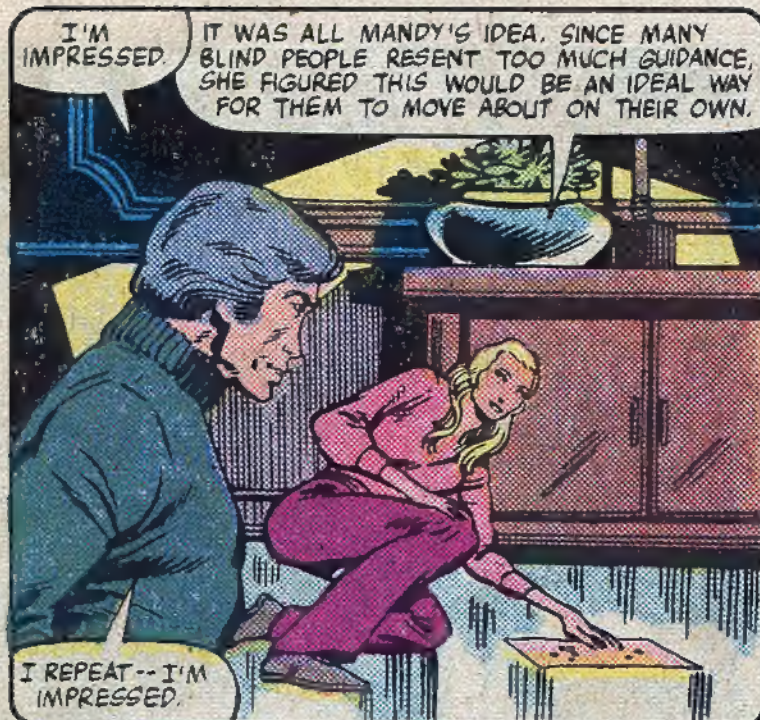
...WITH SIMPLIFIED UPRaised BRAILLE MARKINGS. UNTIL MANDY'S NEW STUDENTS ARE ACQUAINTED WITH THIS LABYRINTH OF A CASTLE--



SEE? THIS TILE HAS THE BRAILLE LETTER "L" FOR LAVA-TORY WITH AN ARROW POINTING TO THE LEFT, AS WELL AS THE MARKING FOR "13" -- MEANING 13 STEPS DOWN THE LEFT CORRIDOR.



THE OTHER ONE HAS THE BRAILLE "D" FOR DINING HALL --AND SO ON.





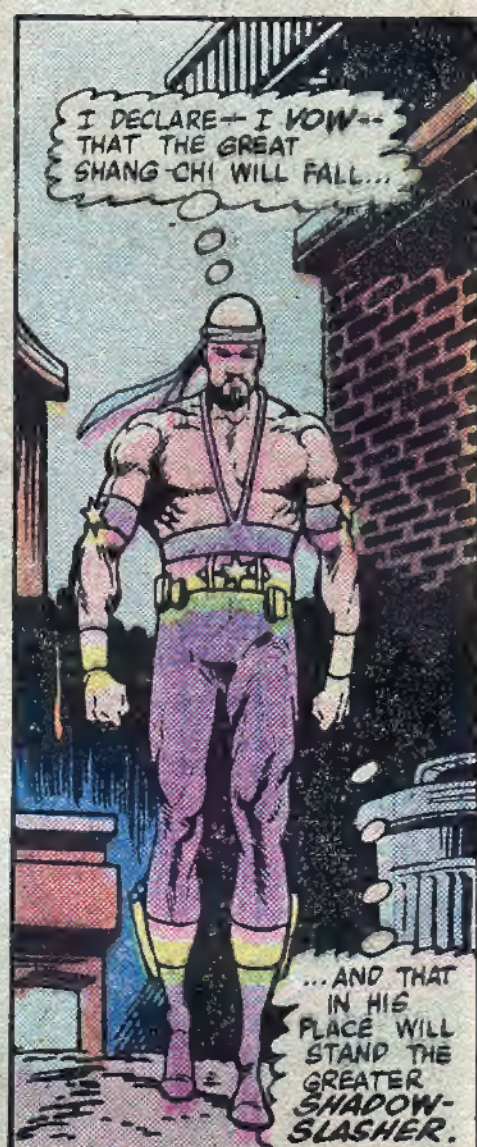
... IT IS
TIME TO
PREPARE
MYSELF.



YES, BLIND MR.
CUSTOMS MAN...



... I DO
HAVE
SOMETHING
TO
DECLARE...



I DECLARE-- I VOW--
THAT THE GREAT
SHANG-CHI WILL FALL...

... AND THAT
IN HIS
PLACE WILL
STAND THE
GREATER
**SHADOW-
SLASHER.**

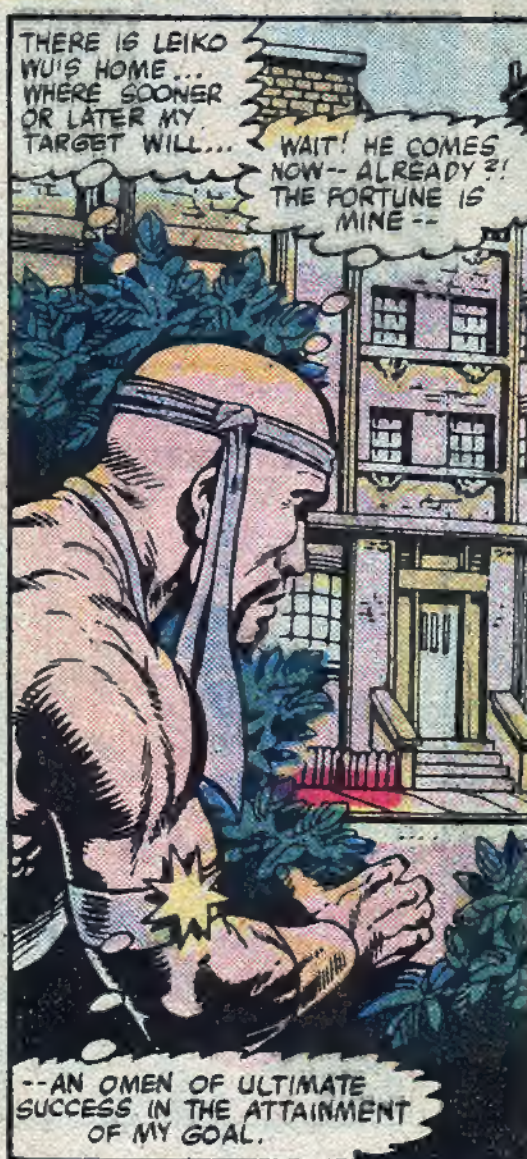


WE WILL GO TO A FRIEND'S FLAT
FOR THE REST OF THE AFTERNOON,
CHRISTINE -- IN SOMO, WHERE I MUST
GATHER SOME CLOTHES -- AND THEN
A CAR WILL ARRIVE FOR US AT SEVEN.

ALL RIGHT,
MR. CHI,
BUT--

SHANG.

VERY WELL, SHANG, BUT I GUESS I'LL
HAVE TO TREAT YOU TO LUNCH BEFORE
THEN, BECAUSE I'M FAMISHED--AND
DON'T THINK I'M PATRONIZING YOU
WHEN I SAY I LOVE CHINESE
FOOD.



THERE IS LEIKO
WU'S HOME...
WHERE SOONER
OR LATER MY
TARGET WILL...

WAIT! HE COMES
NOW-- ALREADY?!
THE FORTUNE IS
MINE--

--AN OMEN OF ULTIMATE
SUCCESS IN THE ATTAINMENT
OF MY GOAL.



IS IT A LONG TRIP BACK TO
SCOTLAND?

NOT BY CAR.

YOU HAVE
A KEY TO
THE FLAT?

YES.

THEN SHE MUST
BE A CLOSE
FRIEND OF--



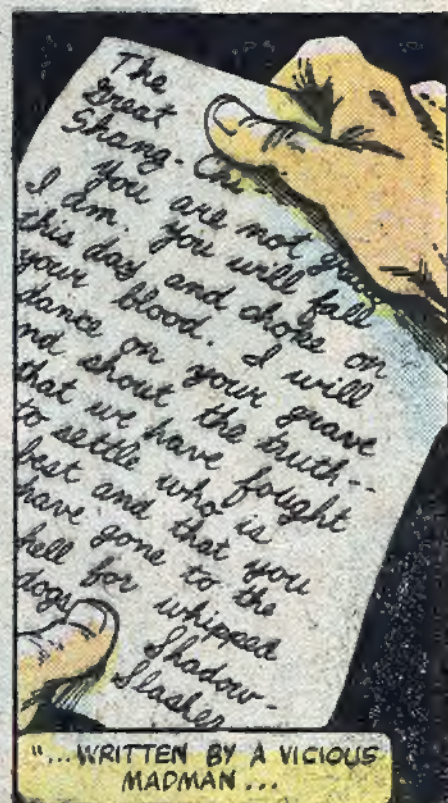
WHAT WAS THAT, SHANG?



"A MESSAGE, BOUND TO THE HILT..."

I THOUGHT YOU HAD A KEY. WHY DID YOU HIT THE DOOR?

"... A CHALLENGE ..."



"...WRITTEN BY A VICIOUS MADMAN..."



"... AS IF MY VERY EXISTENCE WERE A THREAT TO HIS PEACE AND SANITY ..."

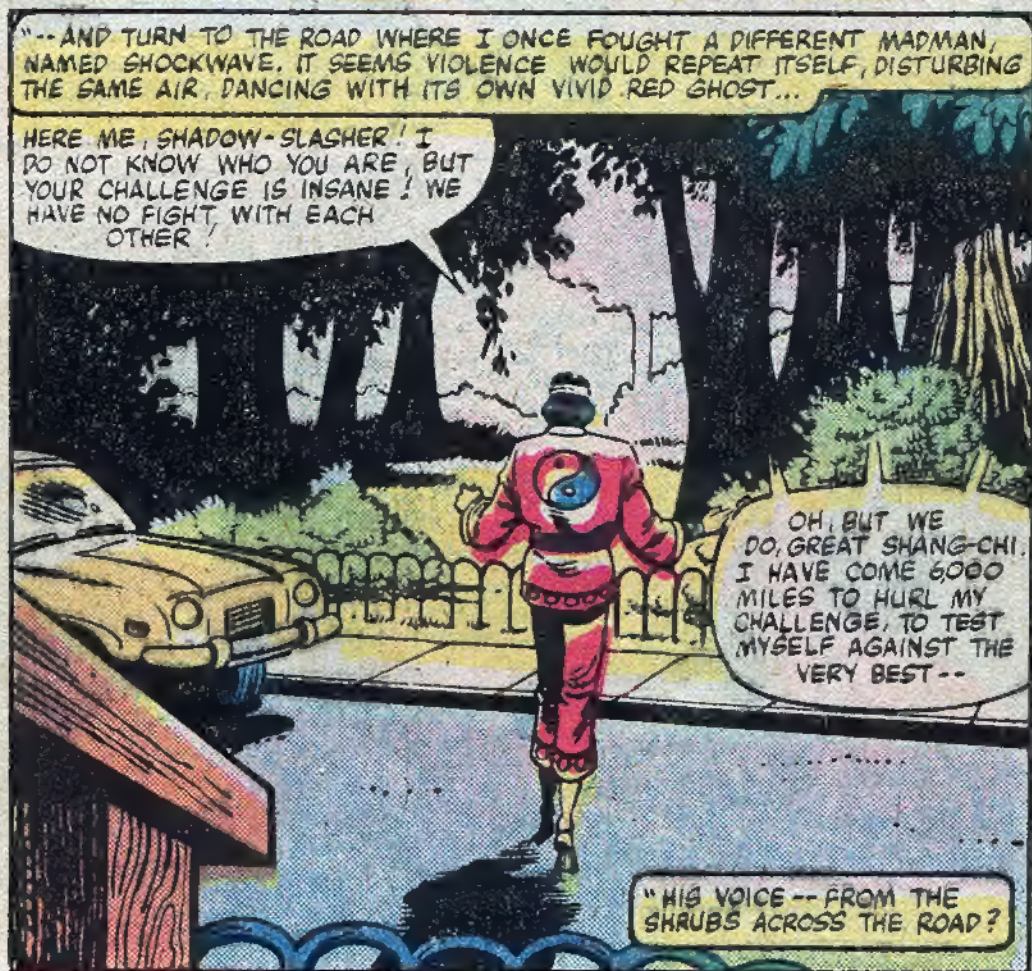
AH... I DID NOT STRIKE THE DOOR, CHRISTINE. STAY INSIDE, PLEASE-- DO NOT LEAVE UNTIL I RETURN.

"... WRITTEN BY A MAN WHO MIGHT DO ANYTHING, TO ANYONE ..."

ALL RIGHT, SHANG, BUT--

STAY INSIDE.

"I MUST LOCK THE DOOR BEHIND HER--"



"-- AND TURN TO THE ROAD WHERE I ONCE FOUGHT A DIFFERENT MADMAN, NAMED SHOCKWAVE. IT SEEMS VIOLENCE WOULD REPEAT ITSELF, DISTURBING THE SAME AIR, DANCING WITH ITS OWN VIVID RED GHOST ..."

HERE ME, SHADOW-SLASHER! I DO NOT KNOW WHO YOU ARE, BUT YOUR CHALLENGE IS INSANE! WE HAVE NO FIGHT WITH EACH OTHER!

OH, BUT WE DO, GREAT SHANG-CHI. I HAVE COME 6000 MILES TO HURL MY CHALLENGE, TO TEST MYSELF AGAINST THE VERY BEST--

"HIS VOICE-- FROM THE SHRUBS ACROSS THE ROAD?"



-- TO PROVE THAT YOU ARE NOT THE BEST -- AND MY GOAL IS NOW IN SIGHT!

YOUR GOAL IS FALSE!

DO YOU HEAR ME--?

SHADOW-SLASHER--?

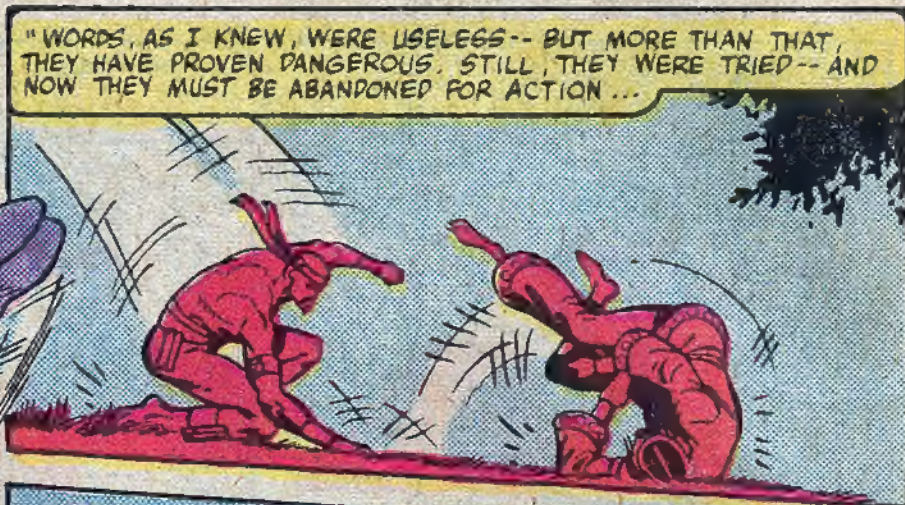
"NO REPLY. I AM IN GREAT DANGER..."



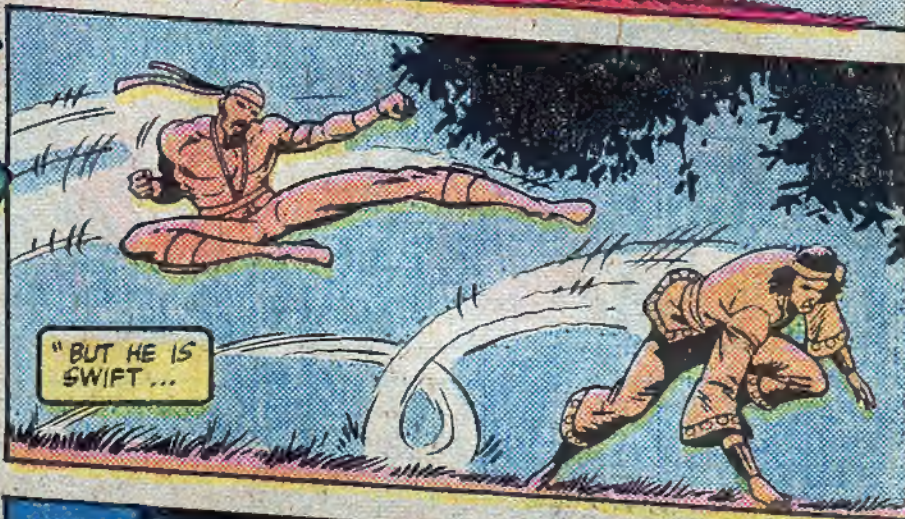
I HEAR YOU, GREAT SHANG-CHI--

"THEN HE IS WELL-NAMED--"

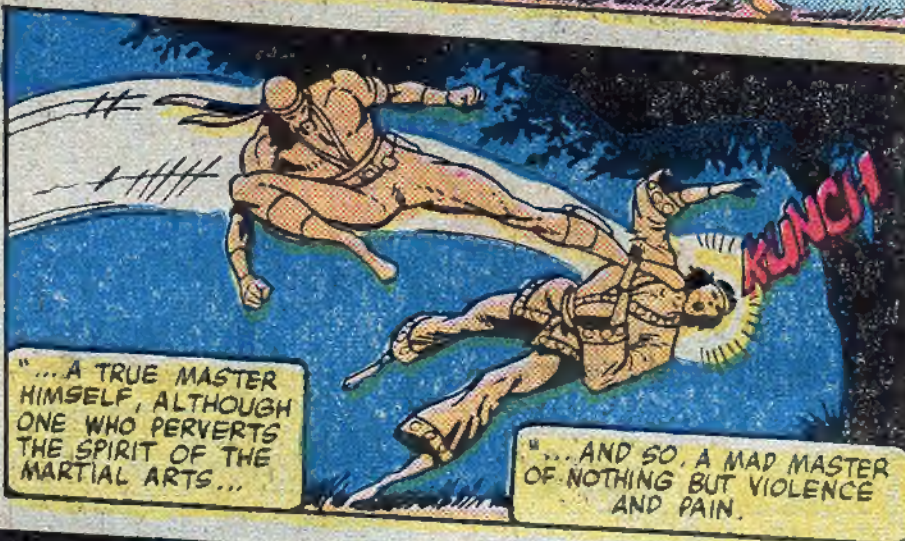
"--SLASHING THROUGH THE SHADOWS OF THE TREE TO STRIKE ME FROM BEHIND."



"WORDS, AS I KNEW, WERE USELESS-- BUT MORE THAN THAT, THEY HAVE PROVEN DANGEROUS. STILL, THEY WERE TRIED-- AND NOW THEY MUST BE ABANDONED FOR ACTION ..."



"BUT HE IS SWIFT ..."



"... A TRUE MASTER HIMSELF, ALTHOUGH ONE WHO PERVERTS THE SPIRIT OF THE MARTIAL ARTS ..."

"... AND SO, A MAD MASTER OF NOTHING BUT VIOLENCE AND PAIN."

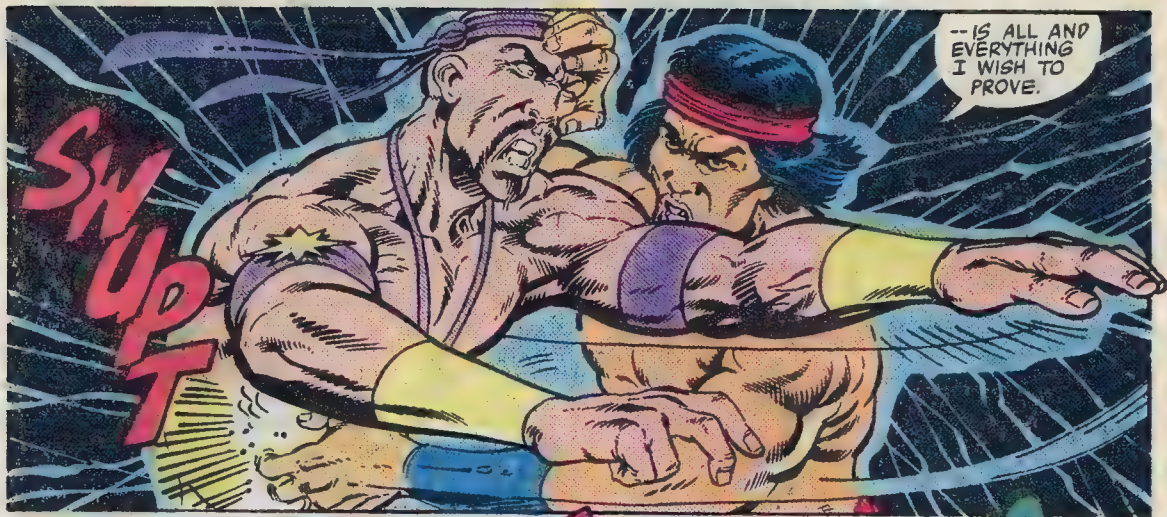


GET UP, GREAT SHANG-CHI. THEY SAY YOU ARE THE SON OF FU MANCHU.

PROVE IT.

I HAVE SPENT MUCH OF THE LAST FOUR YEARS, SLASHER, TRYING TO DENY IT. I MAY BE MY FATHER'S SON-- BUT I AM MY OWN MAN.

THAT, AND THAT ALONE--



-- IS ALL AND
EVERYTHING
I WISH TO
PROVE.



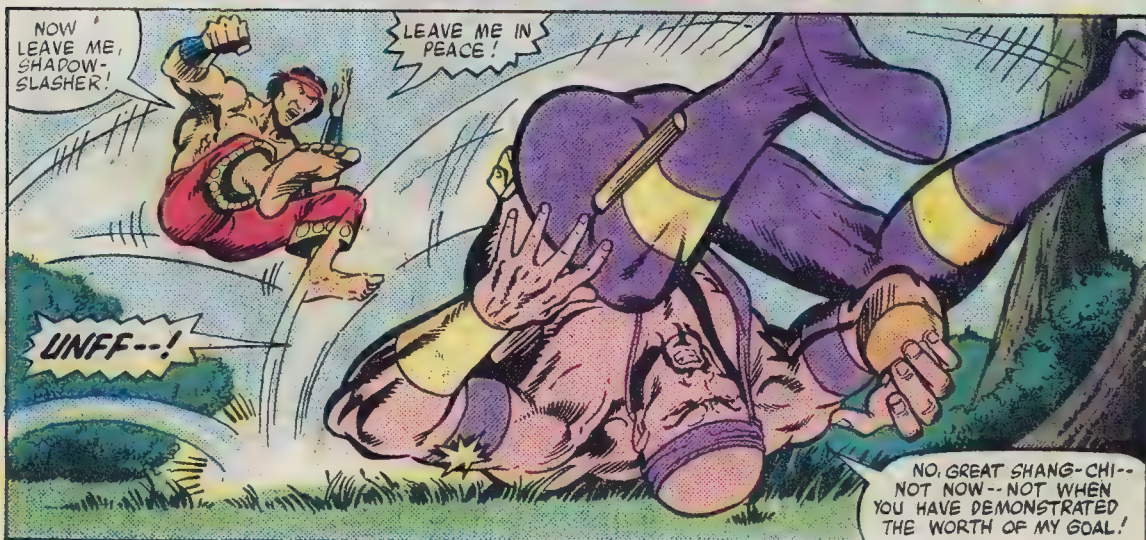
BOK



SWAKT



HWUD

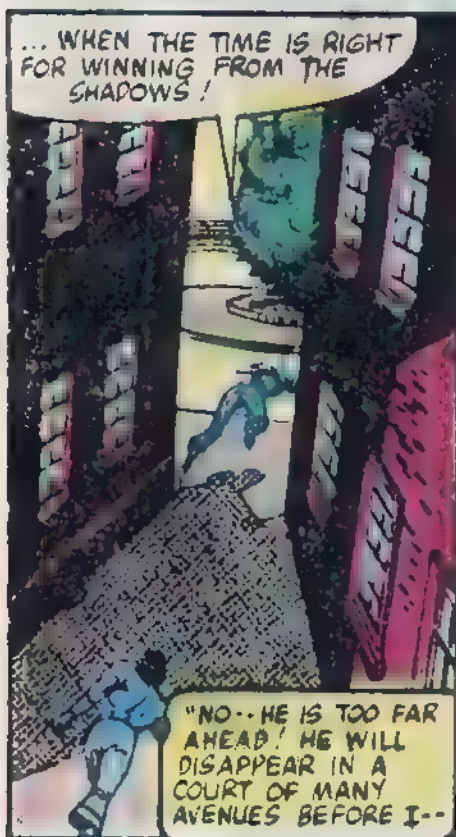
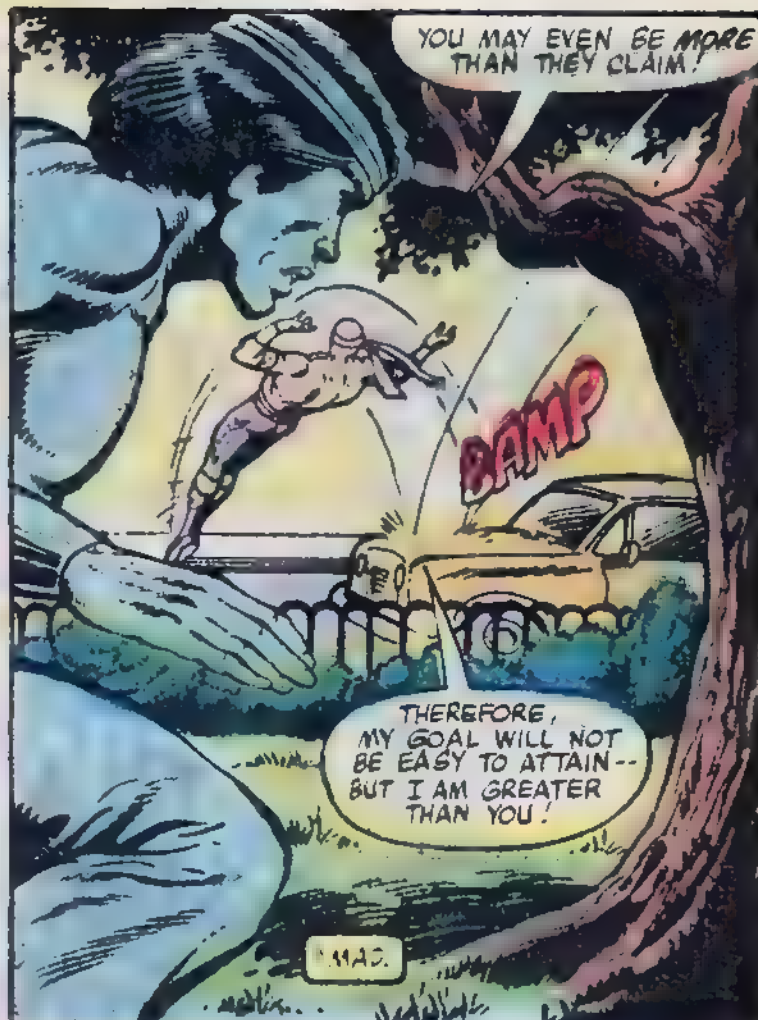
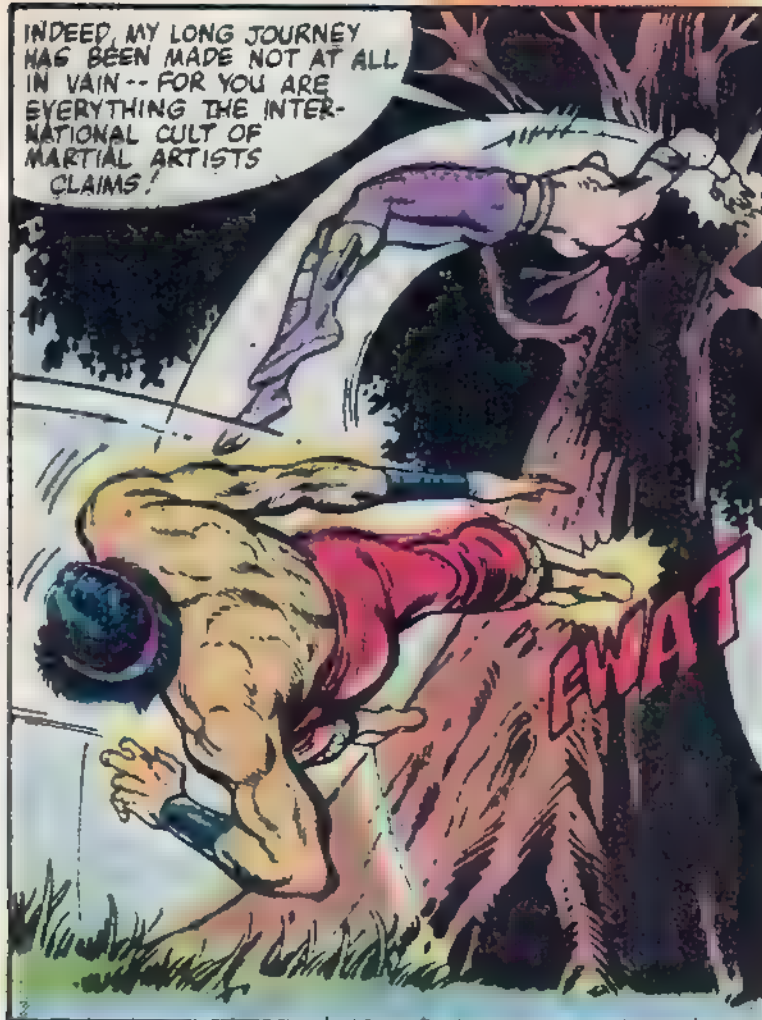


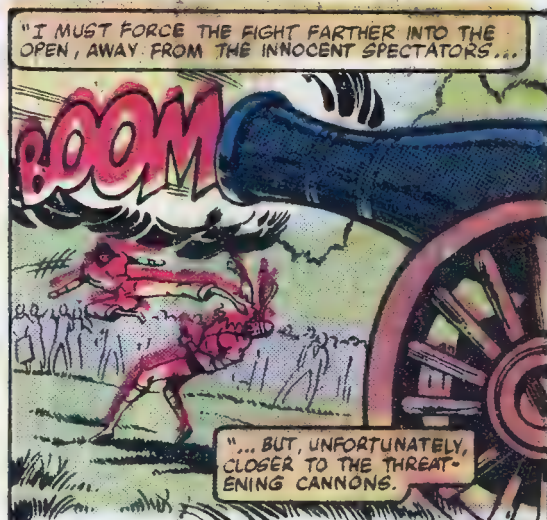
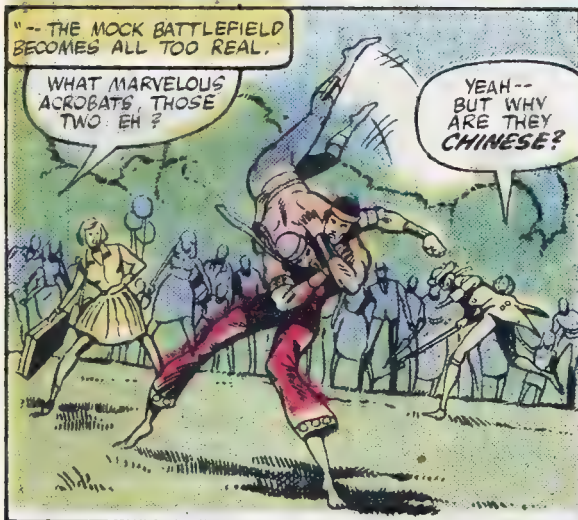
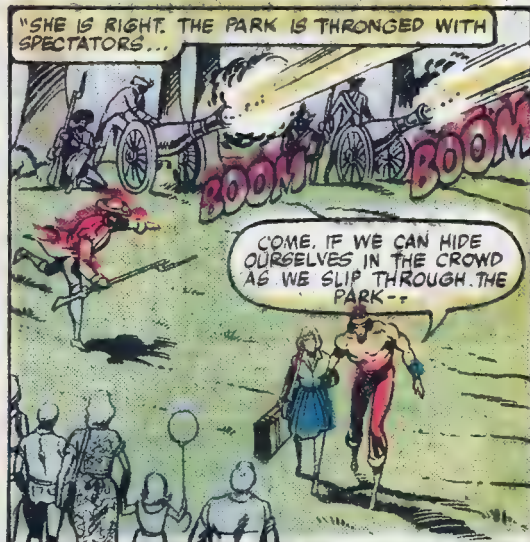
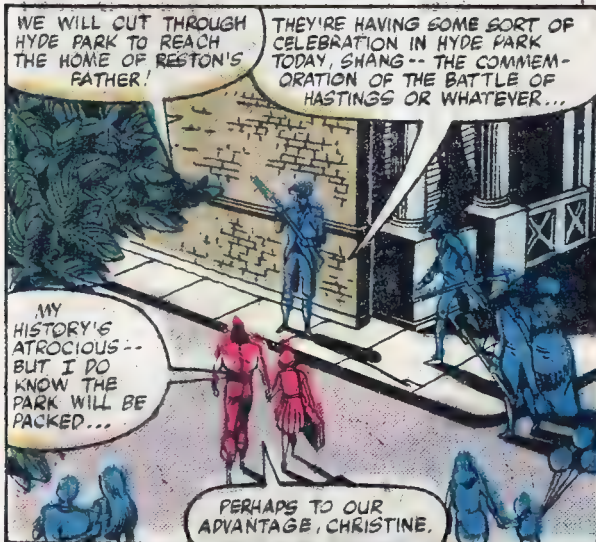
NOW
LEAVE ME,
SHADOW-
SLASHER!

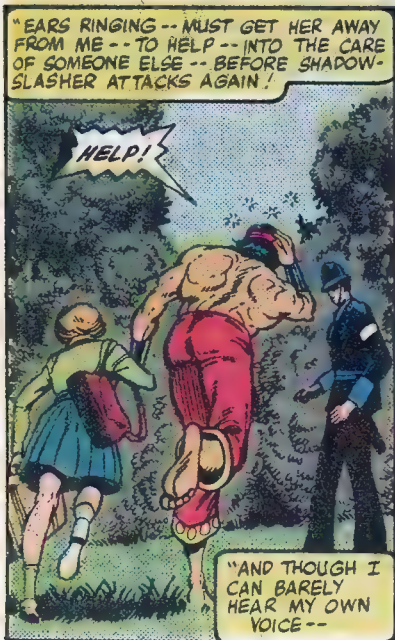
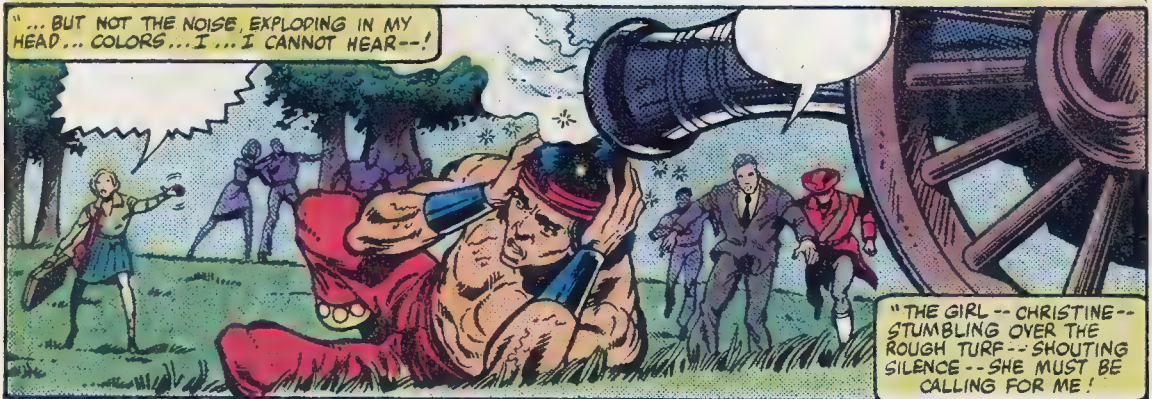
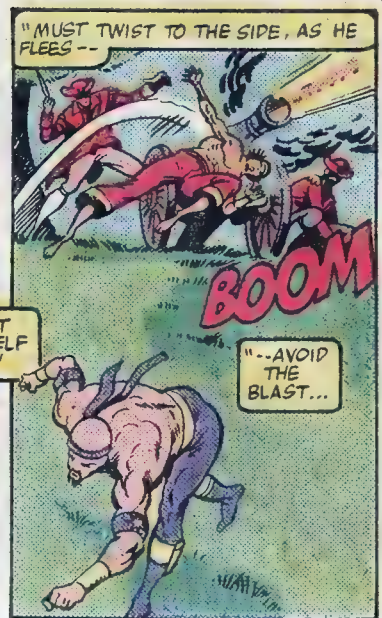
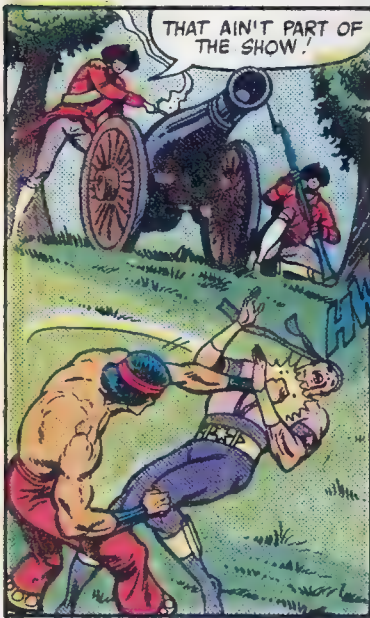
LEAVE ME IN
PEACE!

UNFF--!

NO, GREAT SHANG-CHI--
NOT NOW-- NOT WHEN
YOU HAVE DEMONSTRATED
THE WORTH OF MY GOAL!









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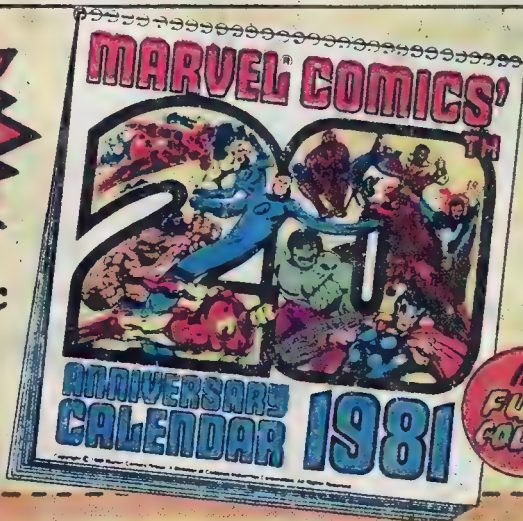
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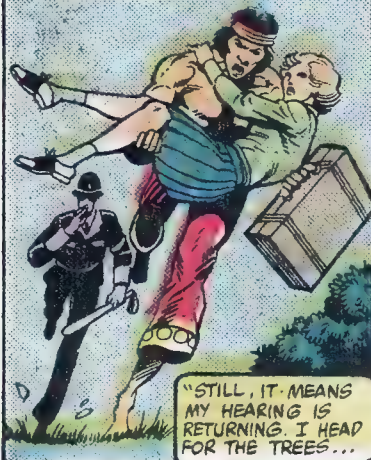
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ES NOV

"NO CHOICE BUT FLIGHT--I MUST TAKE THE GIRL TO SAFETY MYSELF..."

"AS HE PURSUES I HEAR HIS WHISTLE--BUT ONLY FAINTLY AND IN THE SPACES BETWEEN SHARP GAPS."



"STILL, IT MEANS MY HEARING IS RETURNING. I HEAR FOR THE TREES..."

IS HE NEAR, CHRISTINE?

HE'S WAY OFF TO THE LEFT. CAN'T YOU HEAR HIS WHISTLE?



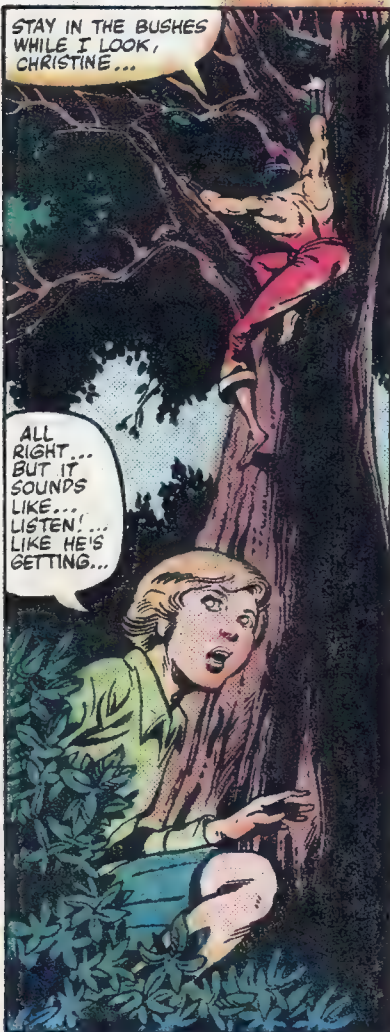
SOMETIMES, BUT MY EARS ARE STILL RINGING... AND IF SHADOW-SLASHER SHOULD ATTACK WHILE I STILL CANNOT...

I CAN HEAR, SHANG--I'LL GUIDE YOU. KEEP GOING AND IF I HEAR ANY SOUNDS THAT--



WAIT-- I THINK A TWIG SNAPPED. PUT ME DOWN.

STAY IN THE BUSHES WHILE I LOOK, CHRISTINE...



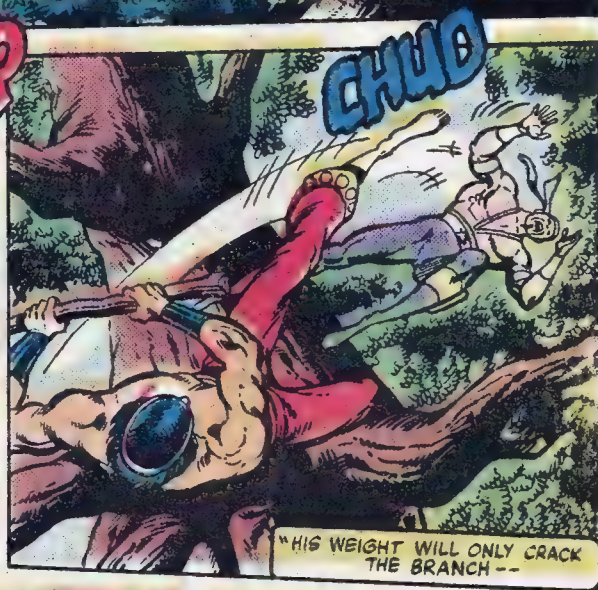
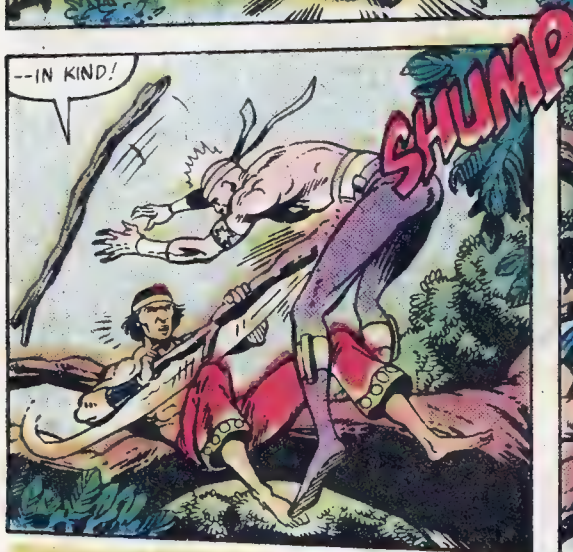
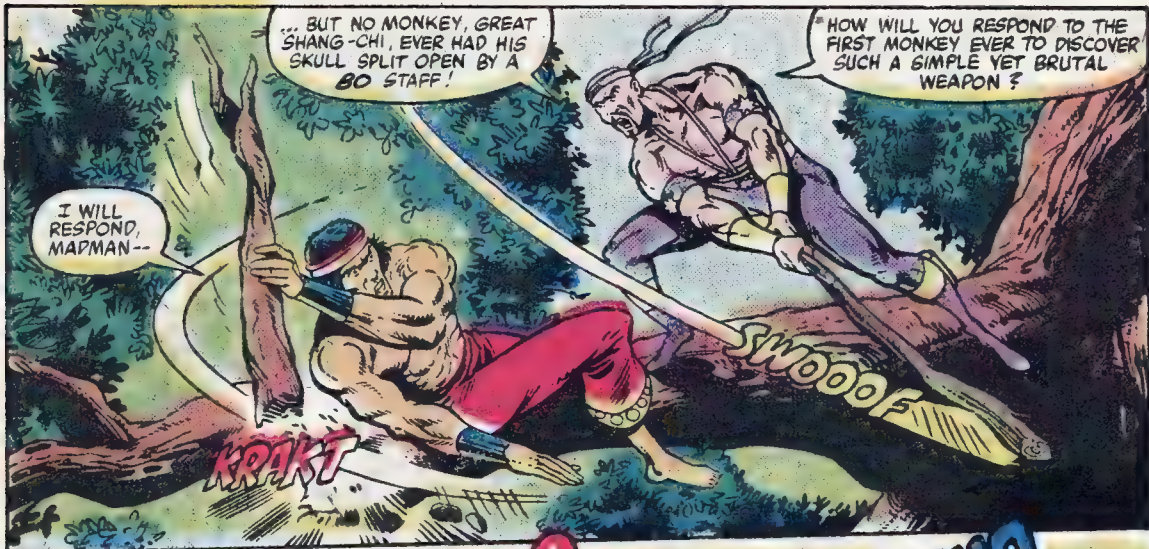
ALL RIGHT... BUT IT SOUNDS LIKE... LISTEN!... LIKE HE'S GETTING...



SHANG! HAVE YOU REACHED THE LEAVES YET--? I HEAR A RUSTLE UP THERE! **LOOK OUT!!**

WELCOME, GREAT SHANG-CHI, TO YOUR FINAL FIGHTING PLACE!

LIKE MONKEYS WE WILL CAPER AND PRANCE OVER THE LIMBS OF THE MIGHTY OAK--UNTIL ITS ROOTS DRINK YOUR MONKEY BLOOD...



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IT'S OVER, CHRISTINE. HE IS--

NO-- I HEAR HIM MOVING...

... CIRCLING...
SLIPPING AWAY...



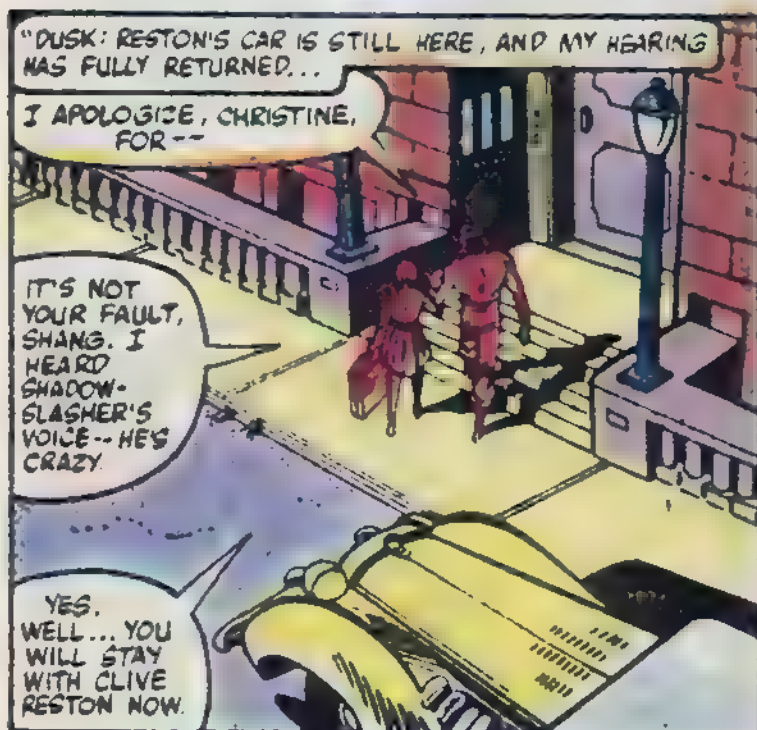
GET RID OF THE GIRL, GREAT SHANG-CHI, AND WE WILL CAPER AND PRANCE AGAIN -- IN OUR FINAL ENCOUNTER!

"STILL HE WISHES TO FIGHT, THE OBSESSION WITH HIS GOAL AN END IN ITSELF..."



COME, CHRISTINE. FOR ONCE HE SPEAKS WITH A BREATH OF SANITY.

WE GO TO RESTON'S FATHER.

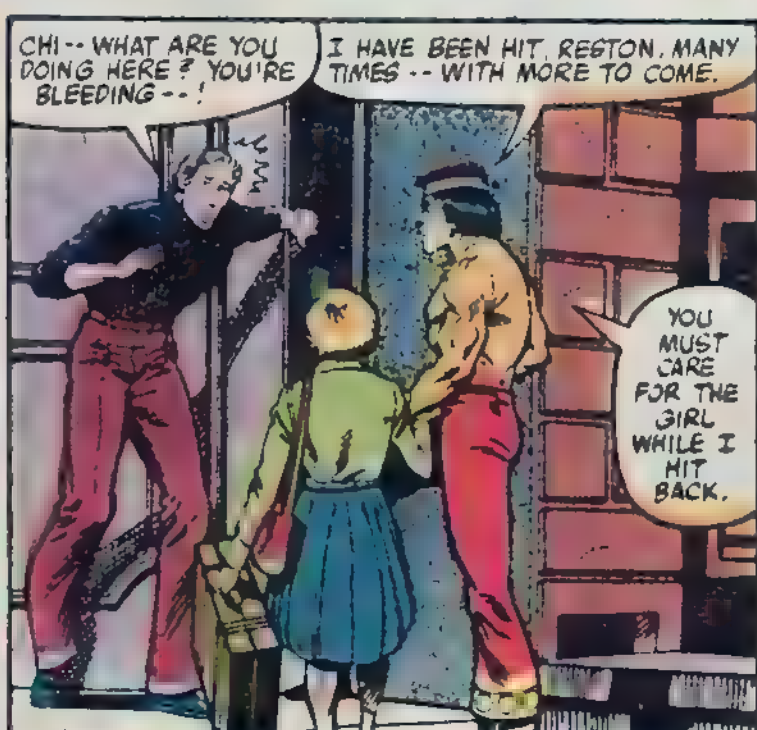


"DUSK: RESTON'S CAR IS STILL HERE, AND MY HEARING HAS FULLY RETURNED..."

I APOLOGIZE, CHRISTINE, FOR--

IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT, SHANG. I HEARD SHADOW-SLASHER'S VOICE-- HE'S CRAZY.

YES, WELL... YOU WILL STAY WITH CLIVE RESTON NOW.



CHI-- WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? YOU'RE BLEEDING--!

I HAVE BEEN HIT, RESTON, MANY TIMES -- WITH MORE TO COME.

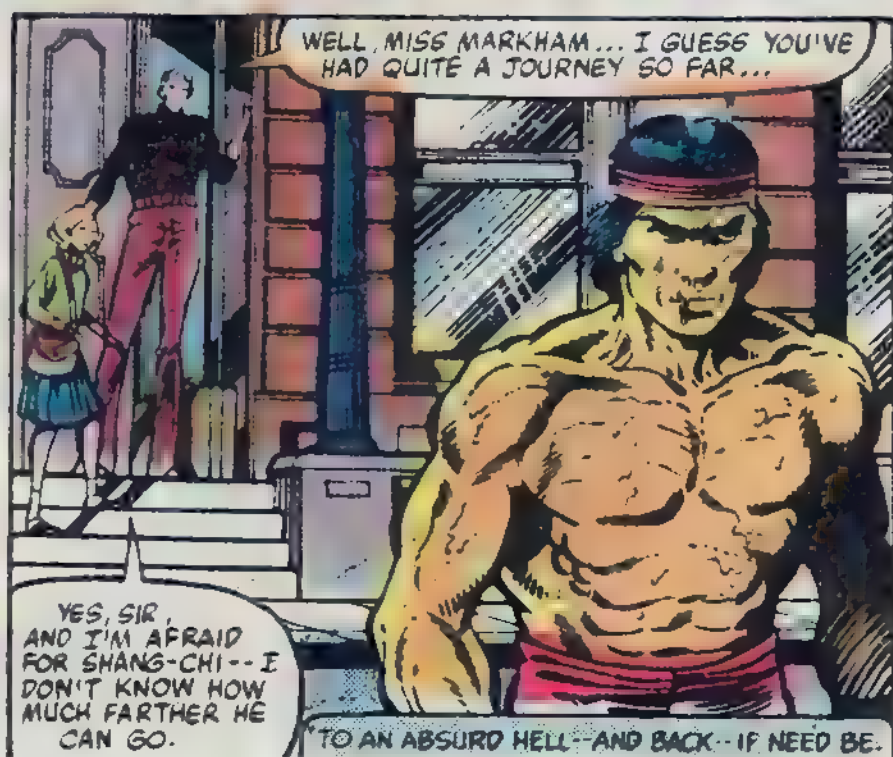
YOU MUST CARE FOR THE GIRL WHILE I HIT BACK.



UH... SURE -- I'LL PUT HER LUGGAGE IN THE BOOT OF THE CAR, BUT WHAT--

I WILL EXPLAIN WHEN IT'S OVER, RESTON.

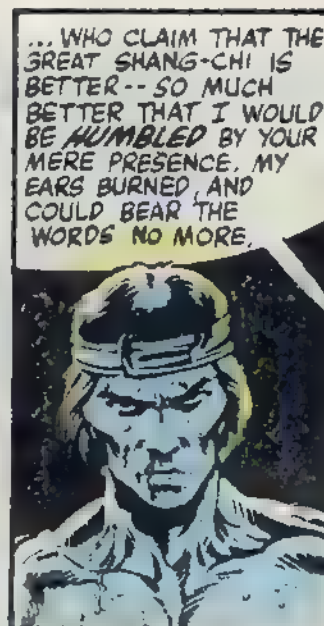
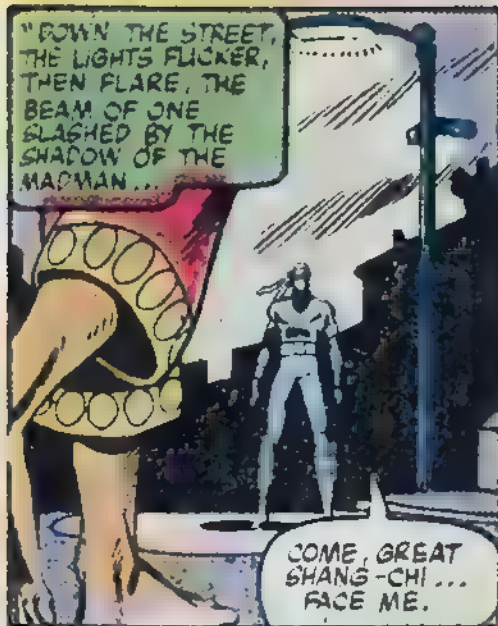
JUST TAKE CARE OF THE GIRL.



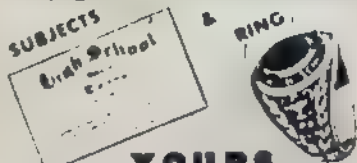
WELL, MISS MARKHAM... I GUESS YOU'VE HAD QUITE A JOURNEY SO FAR...

YES, SIR, AND I'M AFRAID FOR SHANG-CHI-- I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH FARTHER HE CAN GO.

TO AN ABSURD HELL--AND BACK--IF NEED BE.



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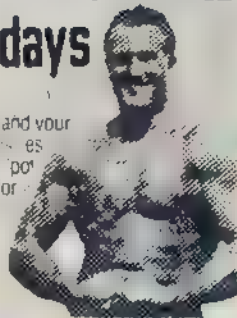
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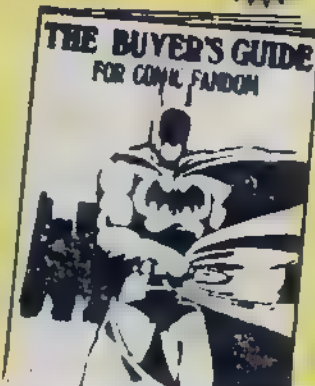
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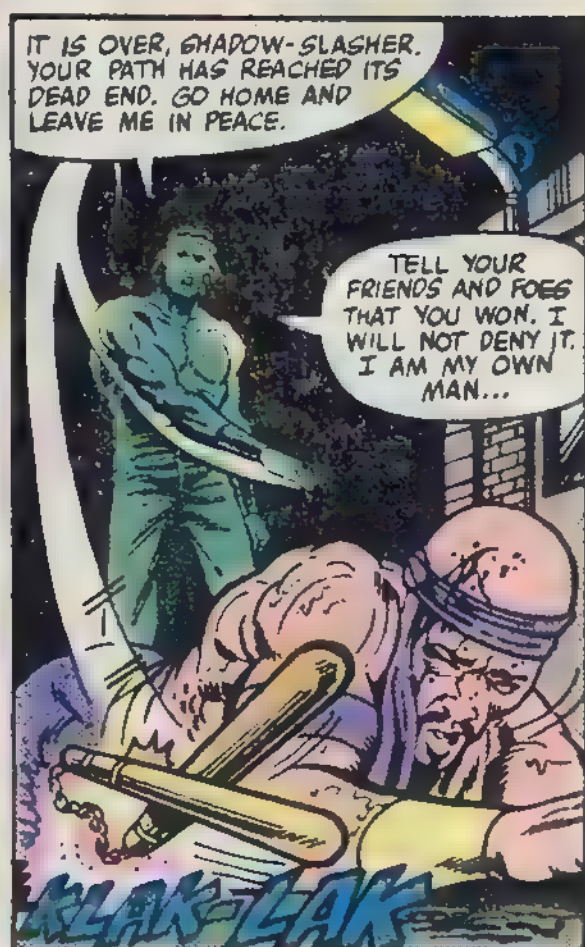
North Hollywood, CA 91607

"IT HAS GONE ON TOO LONG.

"FIRST, THE
NUNCHAKS
MUST BE
MINE...



"AND THEN--





... BUT
THEY
NEED
NEVER
KNOW.

N-NO... BUT
I... WILL
KNOW...

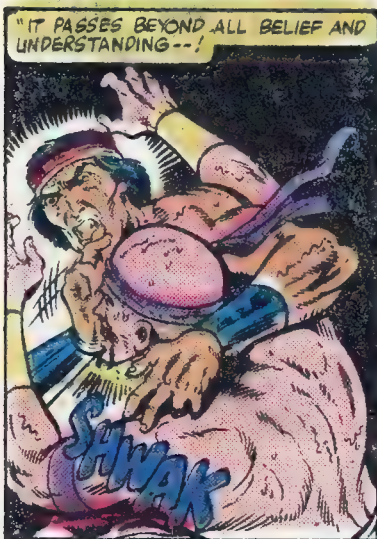


"WHAT IN
THE--?!"

...AND EVEN
THEY WOULD
NEVER BELIEVE
ME...



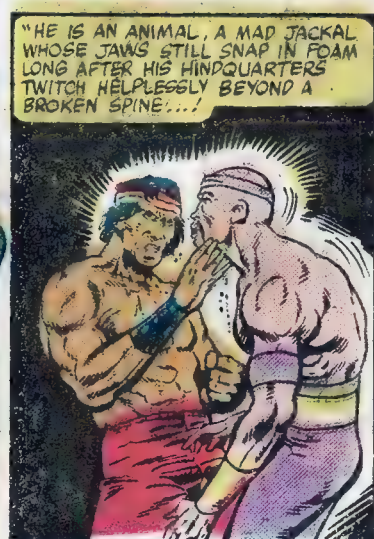
... WITHOUT YOUR DEAD
EYES STARING IN THEIR
FACES!



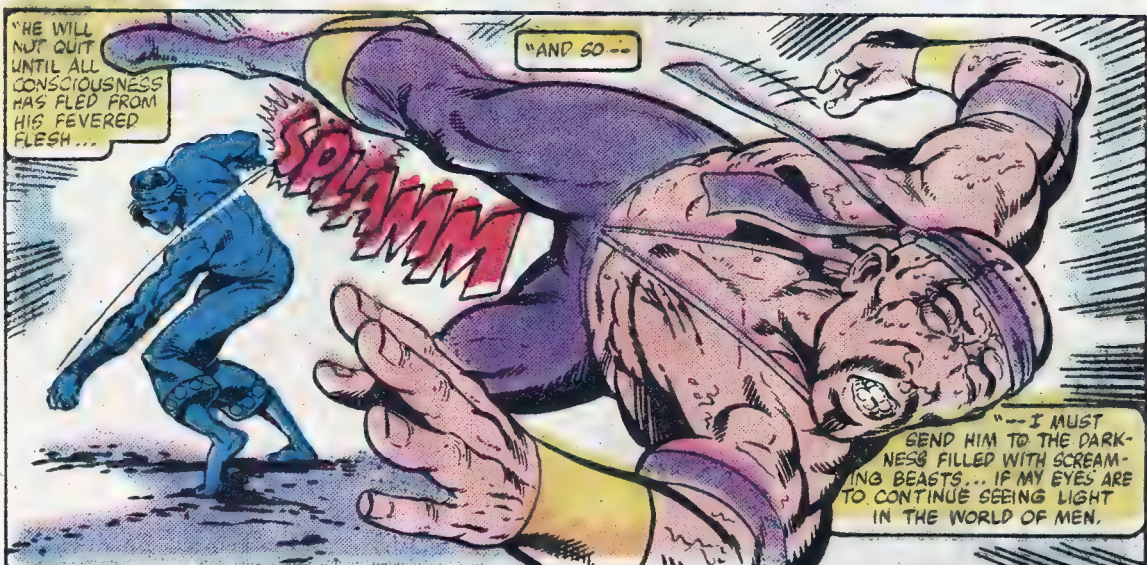
"IT PASSES BEYOND ALL BELIEF AND
UNDERSTANDING--!"



"HE IS NOT REAL, NOT HUMAN, NOT
EVEN A CREATURE OF THE SAME
REALM--!"



"HE IS AN ANIMAL, A MAD JACKAL
WHOSE JAWS STILL SNAP IN FOAM
LONG AFTER HIS HINDQUARTERS
TWITCH HELPLESSLY BEYOND A
BROKEN SPINE...!"



"HE WILL
NOT QUIT
UNTIL ALL
CONSCIOUSNESS
HAS FLED FROM
HIS FEVERED
FLESH..."

"AND SO--"

"--I MUST
SEND HIM TO THE DARK-
NESS FILLED WITH SCREAM-
ING BEASTS... IF MY EYES ARE
TO CONTINUE SEEING LIGHT
IN THE WORLD OF MEN."

"AND THIS TIME... YES! HE STRUCK THE PAVEMENT HARD, WITH NO INSTINCTIVE BRACING OF SHOULDER OR ELBOW... AND NOW LIES TRULY STILL. AND IF FORTUNE REIGNS ANYWHERE IN THIS WORLD, SURELY HE WILL AWAKEN AFTER I AM LONG GONE, WITH REASON RESTORED TO HIS EYES."



"EVEN SO, FOR A TIME, I WAS CONVINCED THE FIGHT WOULD NEVER END, NOR WOULD HE EVER--"



STAY... GREAT... SHANG-CHI...



WE MUST... FINISH... OUR FIGHT...

I MUST YET... PROVE... THAT I AM THE BEST...



I HAVE NOT YET DANCED ON YOUR GRAVE... NOR SHOUTED THE TRUTH...

YOU HAVE NOT YET CHOKED ON YOUR BLOOD... NOR GONE TO THE HELL FOR WHIPPED DOGS...



"NO MADNESS CAN TRANSCEND SUCH A BEATING."

"SURELY I HAVE HELD BACK, BOUND BY THE MERCY AND TOLERANCE OF A WARRIOR FACING THE TANTRUM OF AN ANGERED CHILD..."

"BUT IF SO, I HAVE FLIRTED WITH DEATH TO MY GREAT PERIL, FOR HE IS NO CHILD, AND IF SO--"



HAHAHAHAHA



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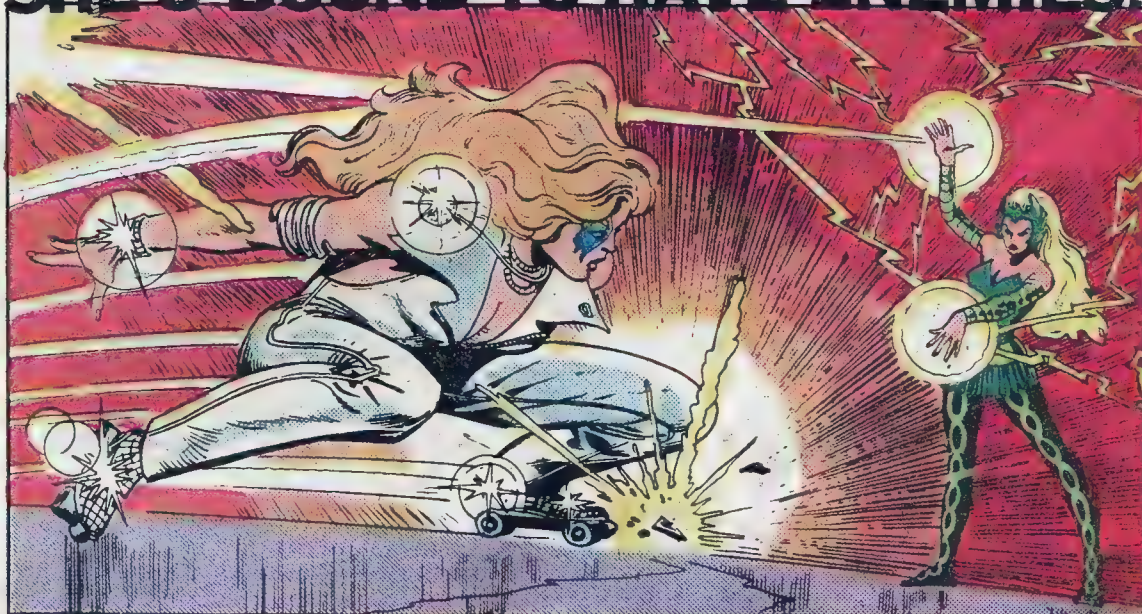
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DAZZLER

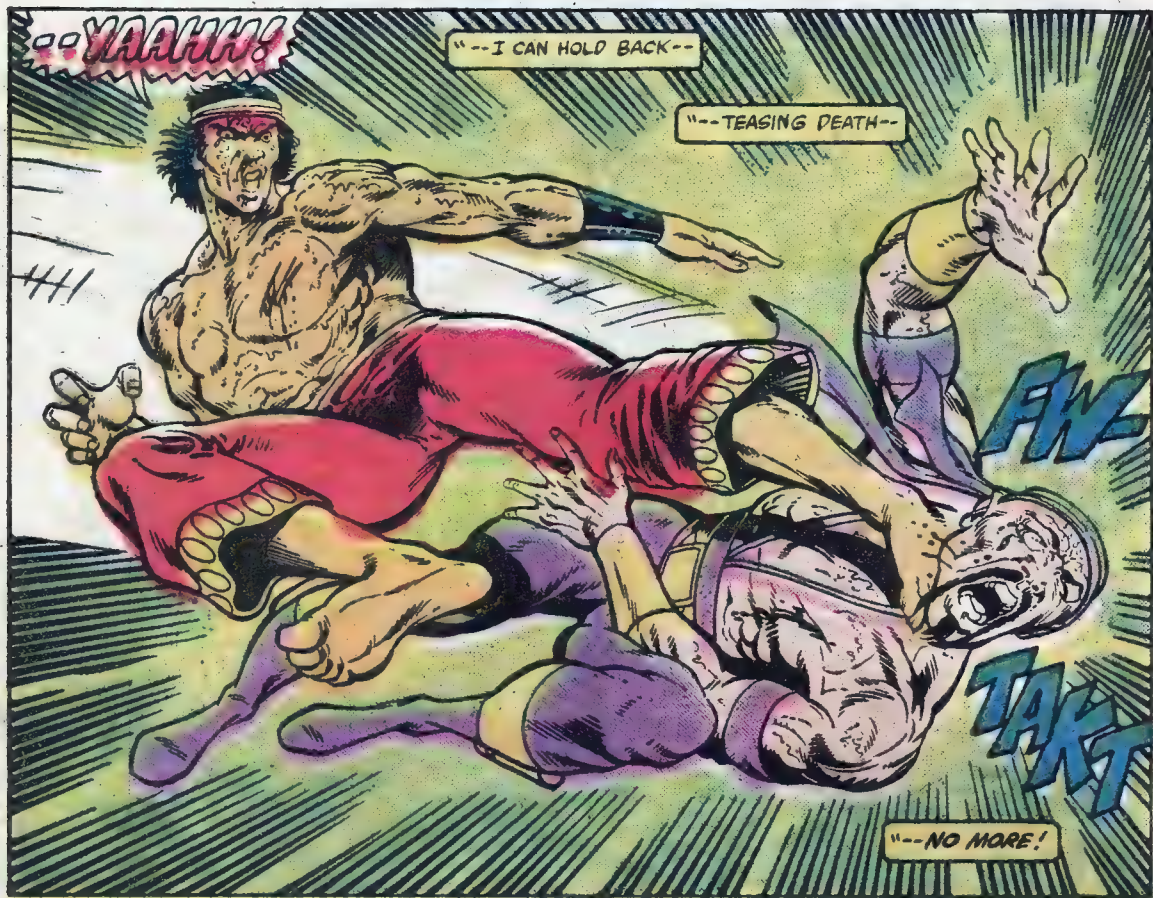
by Tom DeFalco

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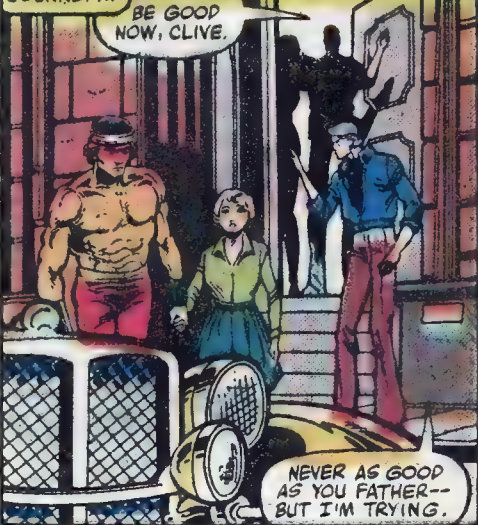
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"RESTON'S FATHER HAS FED US, AND THE WOMAN WITH HIM HAS CLEANSED MY WOUNDS. CHRISTINE MARKHAM, AFTER MANY QUESTIONS, IS STILL PREPARED--SURPRISINGLY--TO COMPLETE HER JOURNEY..."

BE GOOD NOW, CLIVE.



NEVER AS GOOD AS YOU FATHER-- BUT I'M TRYING.

"WE LEAVE THE CITY, HEADING NORTH..."

WELL, CHI, IF YOU'VE HAD ENOUGH FUN FOR ONE DAY, I SUPPOSE WE CAN FINISH THE RETURN TRIP IN PEACE.

QUITE ENOUGH, RESTON.



YEAH.

BUT YOU SHOULD HAVE EXPECTED IT, CHI-- REACH THE TOP IN ANYTHING AND THERE'S ALWAYS SOMEONE WANTING TO SHOOT YOU DOWN, TAKING THE EASY PATH TO THE TOP FOR HIMSELF.



"LONG HOURS LATER WE REACH SMITH'S SCOTTISH CASTLE-- NOW DOUBLING AS HEAD-QUARTERS FOR THE 'FREELANCE RESTORATIONS' AGENCY AND MANDY GREVILLE'S NEW SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND..."



"IT DOES ME GOOD TO SEE THE PLACE, STRONG AND SECURE AGAINST THE NIGHT.

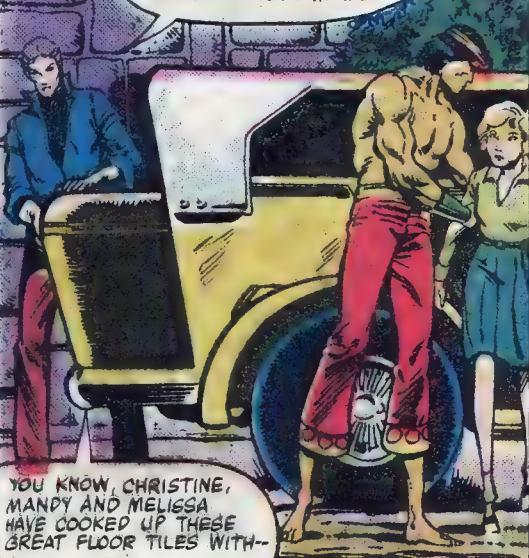
"A SIMPLE JOURNEY HAS TURNED INTO A COLOSSAL PASSAGE WHICH IS STILL DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE OR COMPREHEND..."

"BUT IT IS TIME TO FORGET IT, AS WE PASS THROUGH THE OUTER GATES OF STORMHAVEN..."



"THE GOAL HAS BEEN ATTAINED. I HAVE BROUGHT CHRISTINE MARKHAM THROUGH THE STORM OF VIOLENCE TO A SAFE HAVEN..."

I'LL JUST GET HER LUGGAGE OUT OF THE BOOT, CHI, AND THEN WE CAN GET INSIDE.

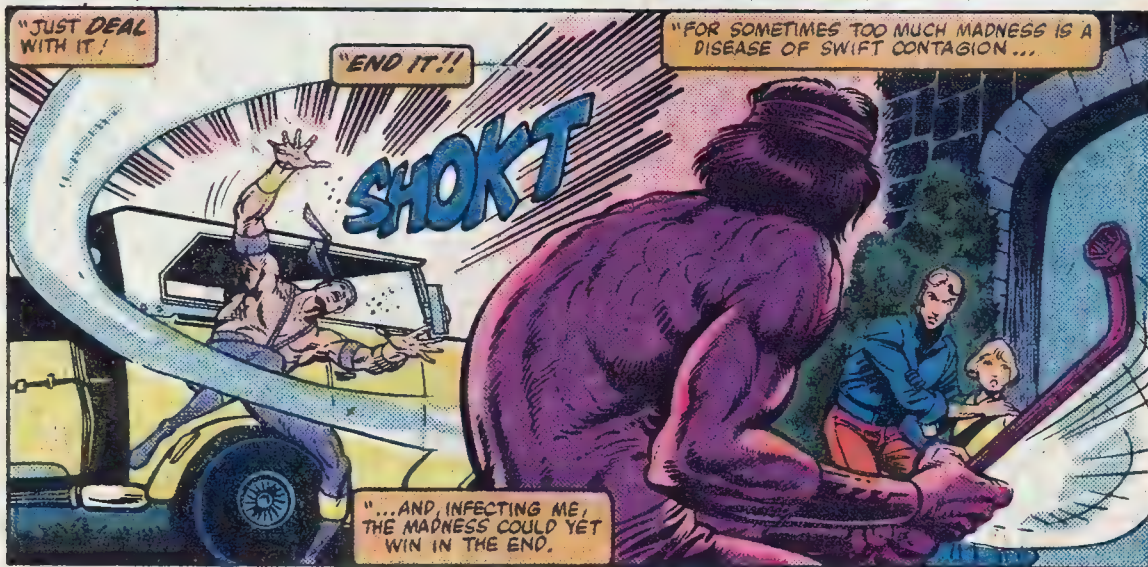
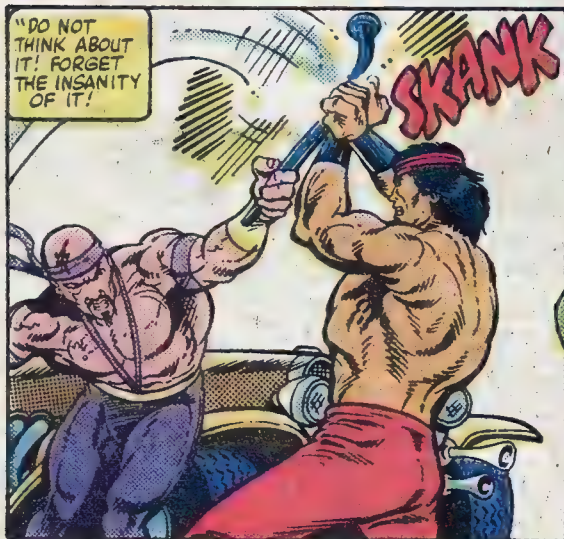
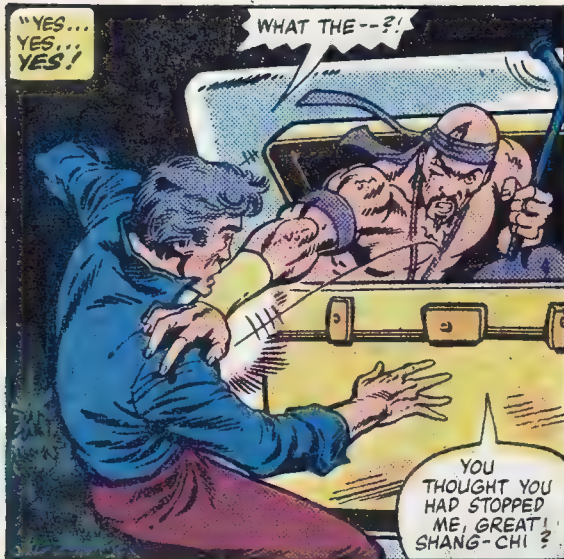


YOU KNOW, CHRISTINE, MANDY AND MELISSA HAVE COOKED UP THESE GREAT FLOOR TILES WITH-

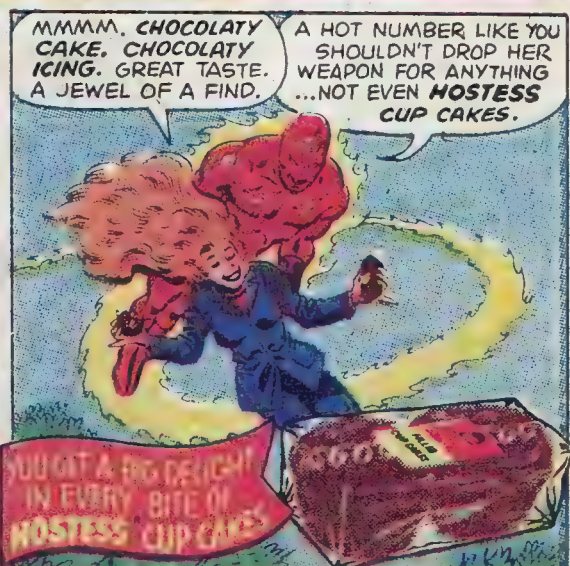
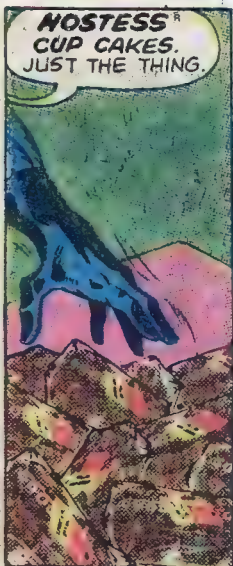
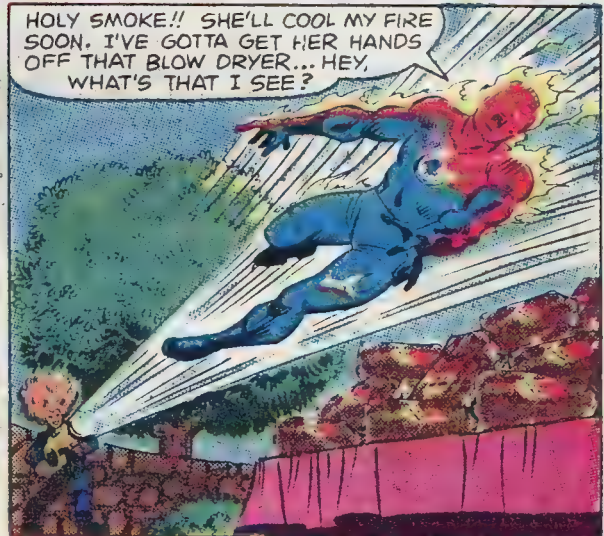
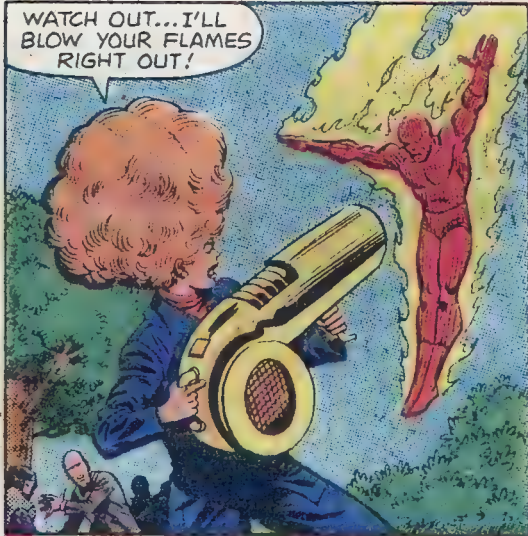
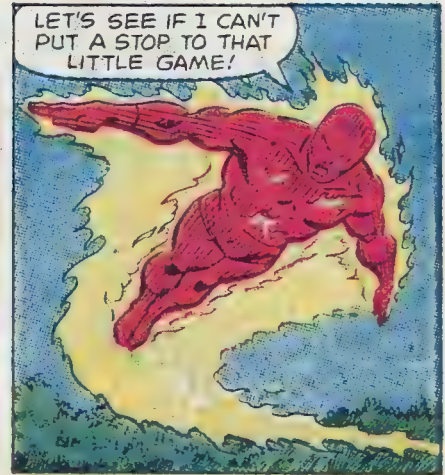
THAT'S ODD! THE LOCK SEEMS TO BE BROKEN...



"NO--!!"



THE HUMAN TORCH IN "BLOWN ABOUT"





WHERE... ARE YOU...
GREAT SHANG-CHI?

I CANNOT...
SEE YOU...



IT IS... DARK... GREAT SHANG-CHI
... AM I ... BLIND...?

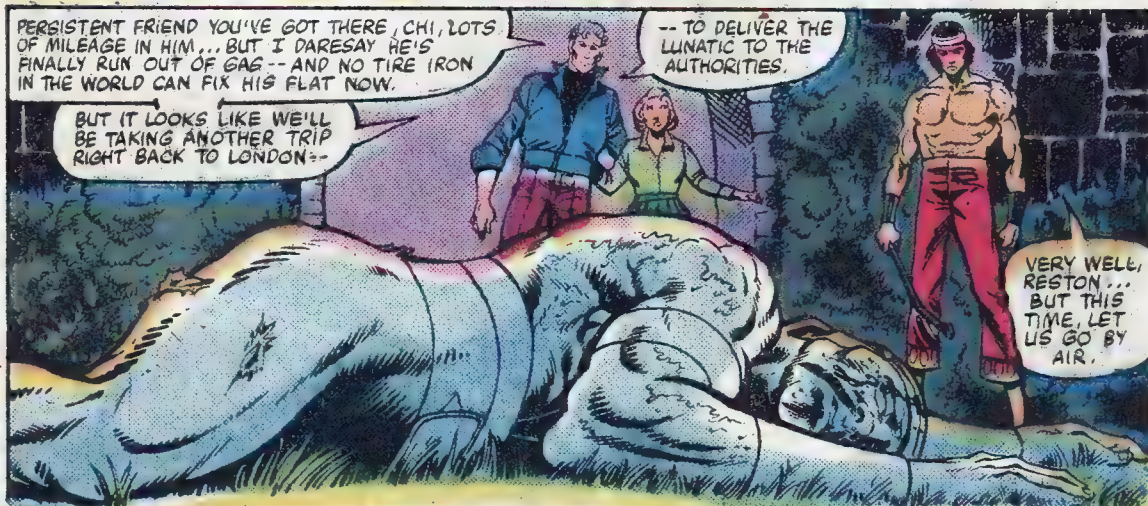
I... I CANNOT...
LIFT MY...
ARMS...

I... I...
CANNOT...



... UHNNN ...

"HE FALLS, IN SHADOWS, AND
INTO THE SAME."

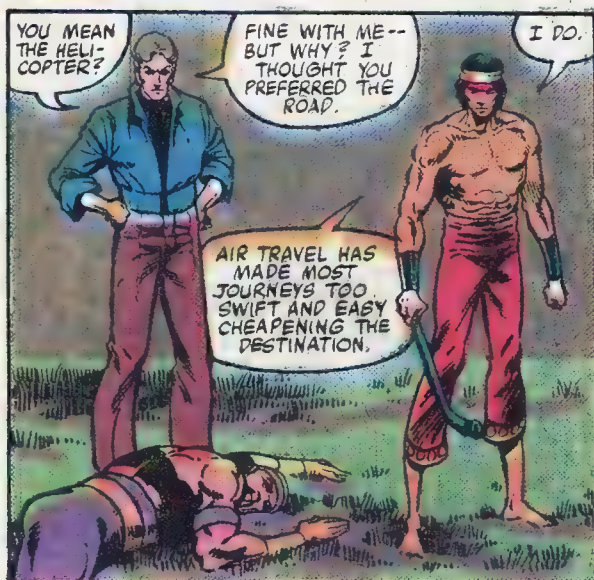


PERSISTENT FRIEND YOU'VE GOT THERE, CHI, LOTS
OF MILEAGE IN HIM... BUT I DARESAY HE'S
FINALLY RUN OUT OF GAS-- AND NO TIRE IRON
IN THE WORLD CAN FIX HIS FLAT NOW.

BUT IT LOOKS LIKE WE'LL
BE TAKING ANOTHER TRIP
RIGHT BACK TO LONDON--

-- TO DELIVER THE
LUNATIC TO THE
AUTHORITIES.

VERY WELL,
RESTON...
BUT THIS
TIME, LET
US GO BY
AIR.

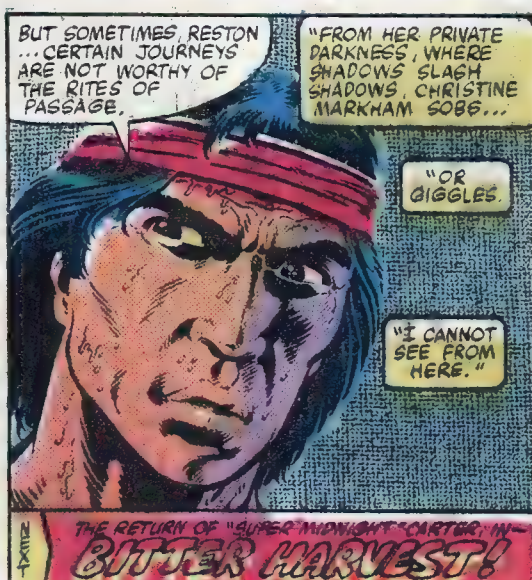


YOU MEAN
THE HELI-
COPTER?

FINE WITH ME--
BUT WHY? I
THOUGHT YOU
PREFERRED THE
ROAD.

I DO.

AIR TRAVEL HAS
MADE MOST
JOURNEYS TOO
SWIFT AND EASY
CHEAPENING THE
DESTINATION.



BUT SOMETIMES, RESTON
... CERTAIN JOURNEYS
ARE NOT WORTHY OF
THE RITES OF
PASSAGE.

"FROM HER PRIVATE
DARKNESS, WHERE
SHADOWS SLASH
SHADOWS, CHRISTINE
MARKHAM SOBS...

"OR
GIGGLES."

"I CANNOT
SEE FROM
HERE."

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JIM SALICRUP
EDITOR
BOB BUDANSKY
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Generally speaking, I'm opposed to the injection of comic-book heroes into situations of true-to-life modern crime (such as muggings and street gang violence), feeling that it's a double error. First, it detracts from the fantasy element, bringing a larger than life character down to an almost mundane level of believability. Second, it only points out — in too stark a manner — the almost futile nature of any attempt to stop such crime. In reality, when you're threatened by a group of hoods, you know that a caped figure is *not* going to swoop down out of the sky to rescue you. Seeing this impossibility in a comic may make reality all the more bearable and/or divert attention away from more practical solutions to such crime — if any exist.

So when I saw **MASTER OF KUNG FU** #90 I was obviously more than a bit skeptical of Doug Moench's wisdom in tackling the subject of Chinatown gang violence through the vehicle of a fantasy character like Shang-Chi. Furthermore — and another reason why I dislike such stories in comics — the subject of gang violence has been almost universally poorly handled, even by some otherwise fine writers. However, after reading the conclusion of the two-parter in #91, I can only say that Doug has come as close as anyone can, in comics, to pulling off the near impossible.

The characters were unfailingly believable and consistent (other writers often cop out having a character experience a convenient "breakthrough," seeing the error of his evil ways in time to neatly wrap up the plot), and the settings were grittily realistic. But more importantly, Doug managed to balance the almost unrelenting futility of trying to bring peace to the hostile street gangs with the glimmer of at least some good done. Maybe Shang-Chi accomplished only temporary, partial, and uneasy peace — but he may also have planted a few seeds in a few fertile minds, touching them with his sincerity and the power of nonviolence... seeds which did not conveniently sprout in time for a mawkish *dues ex machina* on the last page but which, given time, may indeed grow true and strong.

Altogether, a most sensitive portrayal of the subject. The story had an air of almost fragile beauty. Shang-Chi may be simplistic in his innocence and somewhat naive, but no one in comics is more sincere or perceptive of the larger and more important truths.

T.M. Maple
Toronto, Ontario

Doug and Mike both knew what they were getting into when they tackled the street gang story, T.M. Indeed, Doug clipped his Chinatown gang reference from an issue of *Newsweek* more than three years ago; it laid on his desk, ominous and forbidding, all that time before he got up the necessary nerve to weave a story from its grim information. The impetus, finally, was a strong desire to do something fresh and truly different after the extremely long and fantastically bizarre *Fu Manchu* saga. A step down — or up? — to stark realism was the answer.

Dear Doug,

Only two people, to my mind, have come anywhere near to completely perceiving the feeling and experiences you weave through the plots of MOKF. One is that man Zeck, who possesses the wonderful ability to transform your words and images to "living" pictures. For instance, panel 3 of page 6 in #89 is so filled with power that it "stands out like a bandaged thumb," to use your own apt phrase.

The second person to fully understand you is Cat Yronwode, who writes of things I'd never notice unless they jumped off the page to smash me in the face. A letter from Cat is an education to Marvel Comics (see **DEFENDERS** #83) and I eagerly scan the

various letters pages for one of her magic missives. Thanks, Cat.

Back to you, Doug. Since you're one of the very best, the object of this letter was to praise you. Indeed, I place you at an all-time second by a whisker, surpassed only by Jim Starlin who wins only because of his great artwork coupled to great stories. You, Doug, simply give us great stories. "*Warriors of the Golden Dawn*" was marvelous, all seven months of it. But, alas, the praise must be shared equally (lest you get big-headed — but then, who could blame you?) with the very, very good Mike Zeck. And please, Mike, wherever you go, whatever you do, take *Gene Day* with you. The two of you make an insurmountable team. Other memorable panels: page 11, panel 6, for Shang's posture, so aware and ready for anything — except what he gets on page 30, panels 5 & 6.

By the way, after their indication at the end of #89 that no one is truly free — and in view of the "Chinese boxes" theme running throughout the "*Golden Dawn*" series ("My father has always been fond of riddles") — I'm wondering just whom Chi can trust. The whole set-up may be one giant con-job with everyone conning everyone else, but then again... all right, enough's enough.

Finally — loved Tarr's speech in panel 5, page 19. "Queen's knickers" indeed!

"Len liked that mag."

Len Dean King
South Humberstone, England

Dear Earth-Moenchers,

Due to the high inflationary spiral in your Earth prices, I had never expected to visit again. I'd quit just about all of Marvel's titles, including **MASTER OF KUNG FU**. I mean, after the *Fu Manchu* saga ended, I felt I would be necessarily less than intrigued by anything less.

But then, a spectacular thought occurred to me! Fleetwood Mac! *Tusk* was due to arrive! So, after a two-year hiatus, I eagerly steered the TARDIS toward your planet. After a long wait while your U.S. Treasury changed by four Dalekanian bonds into dollars, I was absolutely stunned by the album. Mesmerized by the track "Sara" — oh, what a song! — I began reminiscing about Shang-Chi's adventures. Perhaps it was the tune, or the lyrics, or perhaps the time factor; I should be an expert on that — I am a Time Lord, you know.

But whatever it was, just today (by your time) I bought MOKF #91. Doug and Mike, you have outdone yourselves. As a matter of fact, I enjoyed this more than the *Fu Manchu* saga. Hmmm... Moench, Zeck, MOKF, Fleetwood Mac, and WEREWOLF BY NIGHT. Quite an interesting group, no? By the way, the ending of your Chinatown story was so realistic that I immediately had to relate to "Sara" again, just to calm myself down. So now, Doug and Mike, once again — and despite Earth inflation — I have good reason to visit your planet once a month. **MASTER OF KUNG FU**! Oh yes, and WEREWOLF BY NIGHT, of course; perhaps I'll write a letter to Weremail by Night stating my opinions on #70. What's that, K-9? WBBN was cancelled? With #43? How long ago? Four relative years —?! Crickey! Why don't they bring the bloody thing back?

Oops — it seems I've left the TARDIS in non-dematerialization space. Got to run — but see you in #92 — and Fleetwood Mac in their next album — and WEREWOLF BY NIGHT in.... um, the past, I guess....

Who?

The Doctor

Next issue features the return of "Super-Midnight" Carter, as well as a cast of deadly terrorists bent on destroying a munitions ship and halt the Aberdeen docks to boot. It's called "Bitter Harvest" and it's worth the money for the Leiko subplot alone. See you then?

— Doug Moench

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST!

- ☐ **MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE** #73 — The Thing and Quasar — not in *Infinity*!
- ☐ **SPIDER-WOMAN** #36 — The soul-strangling scream of *Siren*!
- ☐ **STAR TREK** #12 — The Enterprise's deadly twin... *Jarvis*!
- ☐ **SPIDEY SUPER STORIES** #51 — Easy to read tales of the Web Slinger.
- ☐ **DAREDEVIL** #168 — The Kingpin and Bulls-eye strike!
- ☐ **KING CONAN** #5 — "Conan the Avenger!"
- ☐ **MARVEL SUPER HEROES** #95 — (Reprints Hulk #145, part 2) The Power of the Cosmic Plus: more of the howlarious Incredible Hulk!
- ☐ **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN** #214 — The Frightful Four are out for the heads of Spidey and the Sub-Mariner!
- ☐ **X-MEN** #143 — Kitty fights alone against the demon invader of X-Men HQ!
- ☐ **PETER PARKER** #52 — The death of a hero!

- ☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA** #255 — Landmark issue marking forty years of Captain America. Re-produced from John Byrne's pencil art!
- ☐ **THOR** #305 — Gabriel the Air Walker returns — and he's small!
- ☐ **MICRONAUTS** #27 — Baron Karza invades Earth!
- ☐ **GHOST RIDER** #54 — Ghost Rider vs. the all-seeing Orb!
- ☐ **SAVAGE SHE-HULK** #14 — The shattering conclusion to the She-Hulk-Man-Wolf-Hell-cat saga!
- ☐ **INCREDIBLE HULK** #257 — In Egypt, the Hulk teams up with the Arabian Knight.
- ☐ **AVENGERS** #205 — Showdown with the Yellow Claw!
- ☐ **DEFENDERS** #93 — While Nighthawk lies dying, the Sub-Mariner attacks the surface world aided by... the long-dead Lady Dorma!
- ☐ **MARVEL SUPER-ACTION** #29 — (Reprints Avengers #68) ...And We Battle For the Earth!... to save it from Ultron! Plus: Marvel U.K.'s Hulk!

- ☐ **ROM** #18 — The diabolical Wrath of all — *Watchman*!
- ☐ **NAR-THING** #9 — Death in the swamp leaves Man-Thing with a strange legacy!
- ☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR** #228 — The secret of Franklin Richards!
- ☐ **MARVEL TEAM-UP** #103 — Spidey and Ant-Man vs. Taskmaster, trainer of super-villains!
- ☐ **CONAN** #120 — Conan's desperate battle against Erik, the god of death!
- ☐ **MARVEL TALES** #125 — (Reprints Spider-Man #149) The Jackal and the Tarantula vs. Spidey — Round III! Plus: Origins of the Inhumans.
- ☐ **IRON MAN** #144 — Final battle with the Sun-turion! Plus: Shellhead's never before revealed first post-origin adventure!
- ☐ **STAR WARS** #45 — Luke and Artoo stalked by a super Imperial Probe Droid!
- ☐ **DAZZLER** #1 — *HER OWN MAG AT LAST!* Run — don't walk — to your local comic collector's shop to get ahold of this; the Marvel event of the year!

- ☐ **MOON KNIGHT** #5 — "Ghost Story!"
- ☐ **MASTER OF KUNG FU** #98 — A brass-nucmer to the martial arts challenges Shang-Chi's reputation!
- ☐ **MARVEL SPOTLIGHT** #11 — When a two-bit hood gains the powers of Captain Universe... look but!

MARVEL MAGAZINES

- ☐ **CRAZY** #71 — More mirth with "Marvel Super Heroes That Didn't Make It!" "The Blooze Brothers," a WKRP parody, Obnoxious, Teen Hulk, Behemoth Jack, and Howard the Duck! How do we do it? You don't wanna know!
- ☐ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN** #61 — The Cimmerian is set up by his own royal employer!
- ☐ **THE HULK** #28 — The green Goliath fights for his life against a sinister espionage ring and becomes a captive carnival attraction, while Dominic Fortune ushers in the Yuletide season by duking it out with a sadistic 7-foot-tall Santa Claus!

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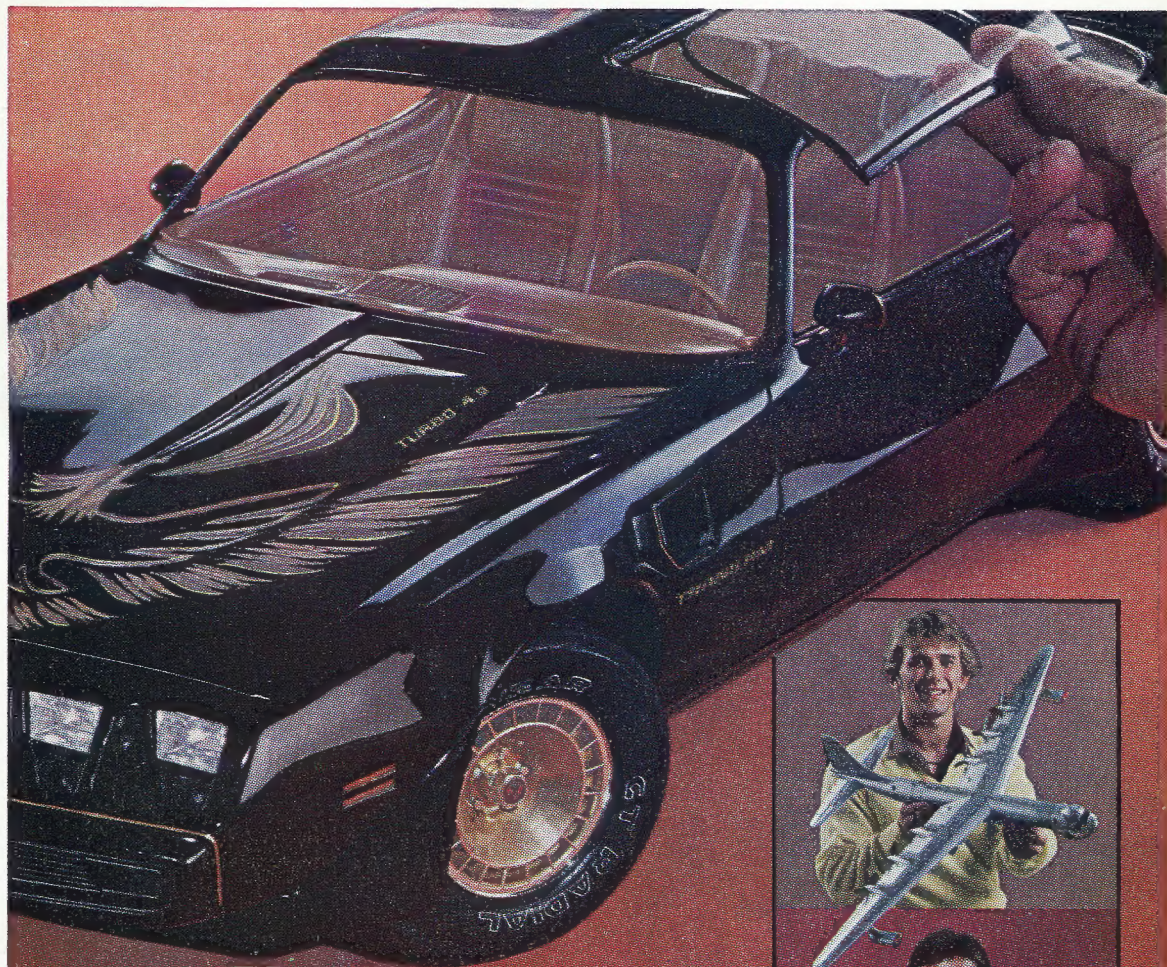
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